



GLOBAL SORGHUM CONFERENCE 2026

Program at a Glance - times and assignments remain subject to change

Sunday, September 13, 2026

8:00 AM–4:00 PM | Visit Lubbock Conference Welcome Booth

Location: Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport

12:00 PM–3:00 PM | Global Sorghum Welcome Party

Location: United Sorghum Checkoff Headquarters, 4201 I-27 Lubbock, TX 79403

3:00 PM–6:00 PM | Staff & Volunteer Check-in

Location: Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, Pedestrian Mall

3:00 PM–6:00 PM | Exhibitor & Poster Setup - Exhibit Hall

Location: Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, Exhibit Hall

3:00 PM–6:00 PM | Registration & Check-in

Location: Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, Pedestrian Mall

Monday, September 14, 2026 – Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

1501 Mac Davis Ln, Lubbock, TX 79401

7:30 AM–9:00 AM | Check-in/ Continental Breakfast

Location: Pedestrian Mall

8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Media Room

Location: Room 110

8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Speaker Prep Room

Location: Room 106

8:30 AM–9:00 AM | Lubbock Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Location: Pedestrian Mall

9:00 AM–10:30 AM | Opening & Plenary Session

Location: Conference – Theatre

Moderator: Monty Christian — Texas Tech University; Office of Research & Innovation; Lubbock, United States

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
9:00 AM–10:30 AM	9:00- 9: 10 Opening remarks from Conference Host Chair	Monty Christian,	Texas Tech University
	9:10-9:20 Texas Tech University President	Lawrence Schovanec, Ph.D.	Texas Tech University
	9:20-9:35 Texas Tech Vice President for Research and Innovation	James Reecy, Ph.D.	Texas Tech University
	9:35-9:55 Global Sorghum Association Chair	David Jordan, Ph.D.	Global Sorghum Assn.
	9:55-10:10 United Sorghum Checkoff Program	Tim Lust, CEO	Natl. Sorghum Producers
	10:10- 10:20 Visit Lubbock Director of Sales and Services	Cerissa Olson	Visit Lubbock
	10:20- 10:30 City of Lubbock proclamation of Sorghum Week	Mayor Mark McBrayer	City of Lubbock

9:00 AM–12:30 PM | Exhibits & Posters open for visitation

Location: Exhibit Hall

9:00 AM–5:30 PM | Registration Check-In & Concierge

Location: Pedestrian Mall

10:30 AM–11:00 AM | Break

Location: Pedestrian Mall

11:00 AM–12:30 PM | Keynote & Plenary Sessions

Location: Conference - Theatre

Chair/Moderator: Monty Christian — Texas Tech University; Office of Research & Innovation; Lubbock, United States

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
11:00 AM–11:45 AM	Keynote speaker: Jessica Christiansen	Jessica Christiansen, Ph.D.	Bayer Crop Science
11:45 AM–12:30 PM	Plenary speaker: James Schnable	James Schnable, Ph.D.	University of Nebraska - Lincoln

12:30 PM–2:00 PM | Lunch

Location: Exhibit Hall

12:45 PM–2:00 PM | Workshop: Sorghum Base - Doreen Ware, USDA, Cold Spring Harbor Lab

Location: Banquet Hall

2:00 PM–6:00 PM | Exhibits & Posters Open for Visitation

Location: Exhibit Hall

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 5: Exploring new products and novel horizons for human, livestock and industrial applications

Location: South Meeting Room 101

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Comparison of grazing brown midrib (BMR) and conventional sorghum-sudangrass hybrids: animal performance and economics.	Gene Gengelbach, PhD	Advanta Seeds; Louisburg, United States
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Development and agronomic evaluation of vegetative oil sorghum as a high-yielding feedstock for bioenergy and bioproducts	Kiyoul Park, PhD	University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Department of Biochemistry; Lincoln, Nebraska, United States
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Development and optimization of high-protein extruded foods from sorghum-soy blends	J Stanley, PhD	ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research; Value addition; Hyderabad, India
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	Polished desalinated produced water as an alternative irrigation source for sorghum production	Teja Saddapalli, PhD	Texas Tech University; Plant and Soil Science; Lubbock, United States

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 6: Strengthening value chains, seed systems and market opportunities to build more resilient and profitable sorghum industries

Location: South Meeting Room 102

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Engineering high-lipid and high-sugar sorghum as a dual-purpose feedstock for sustainable aviation fuel, bioethanol, and precision fermentation	Vijay Singh	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Strengthening the sorghum value chain from farm to fork through start-ups and incubation: A replicable model by ICAR-IIMR.	J Stanley, PhD	ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research; Value addition; Hyderabad, India
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Sorghum stubble as a feedstock for biorefining: effect of pretreatment methods on polymer fractionation	Derseh Yilie Limeneh, PhD	Texas Tech University; Fiber and Biopolymer research Institute; Lubbock, United States
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	Will replace		

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 3: Managing grain, forage, and biomass sorghum production to optimize yield, quality and systems resilience to maximize economic returns

Location: South Meeting Room 104-105

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Multi-environment and multi-year evaluation of commercial sorghum hybrids for biomass yield, forage quality, and biofuel potential in California	Jackie Atim, PhD	University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources- University of California Merced; Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Life and Environmental Sciences; Parlier, United States
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	The next-generation brown midrib (bmr) mutants improving sorghum for forage and biomass utilization	Scott Sattler, PhD	USDA-ARS; Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research Unit; Lincoln, United States
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Production potentials of grain and forage sorghum under organic management systems	Md Ashik Mia	Texas A&M University; Soil and Crop Sciences; College Station, United States
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	Classifying forage sorghum berry size in relation to hybrid maturity class in a water limited environment	Kevin Heflin, PhD	Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension; Soil and Crop Sciences; Canyon, United States

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 2: Leveraging advances in genomics for enhancing yield gain and stress resilience

Location: South Meeting Room 107

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	More than a bigger GWAS: resolving complex traits through physiology, selection and networks	Emma Mace, PhD	Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), The University of Queensland; Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation; Warwick, Australia
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Improving sorghum genetics for the Eastern United States through genomic selection and resistance breeding	Rick Boyles, PhD	Clemson University; Plant and Environmental Sciences; Florence, United States
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Mechanistic insights into sorghum adaptation to environmental challenges	Feifei Yu, PhD	China Agricultural University; Beijing, China
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	Genome-wide association study identified multiple genomic loci influencing key agronomic traits in the Ethiopian sorghum core collection	Chemeda Birhanu, PhD	Oromia Agricultural Research Institute; Plant breeding and genetics; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 4: Emerging technologies and their application potential - commercialization opportunities for the sorghum industry

Location: South Meeting Room 108-109

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	What actually accelerates commercial sorghum breeding? A European breeder's perspective on emerging technologies and genetic gain	Janos Jover, PhD	Alfaseed Ltd.; Plant Breeding; Budapest, Hungary
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Can an in planta transformation method bypass the regeneration bottleneck in sorghum?	Christopher Barron	Purdue University; Agronomy; West Lafayette, United States
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Enhancing sorghum genetic transformation: insights from developmental regulator-induced transcriptional reprogramming	FNU Pallavi, PhD	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY; IGCAS, PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCE; LUBBOCK, United States
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	Development of an MS8-based nuclear male sterility system for two-line hybrid breeding in sorghum	Dazhong Zhao, PhD	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Department of Biological Sciences; Milwaukee, United States

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 1: Reduce yield gaps and enhance resilience to changing environments

Location: South Meeting Room 111-112

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Building grain quality ideotypes in sorghum: from molecular networks to breeding targets	David Pot, PhD	CIRAD; BIOS AGAP; Montpellier, France
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Deciphering the role of soil microbes in sorghum responses to drought and heat via a metagenomic approach	Ruvimbo Mhari	University of Mpumalanga; School of Biology and Environmental Sciences; Capetown, South Africa
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Strengthening sorghum grower decision-making through improved Chinch bug sampling	Jacie Guerrero	Oklahoma State University; Entomology and Plant Pathology; Stillwater, United States
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	A high-throughput phenotyping approach for screening crop root system in the field	Cheng Qian	University of Queensland, Australia

3:30 PM–4:00 PM | Break

Location: South Pedestrian Mall

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 5: Exploring new products and novel horizons for human, livestock and industrial applications

Location: South Meeting Room 101

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Comparative evaluation of intra and inter-row weed management strategies in organic sorghum systems	Sougata Roy, PhD	Texas A&M University; Soil and Crop Science; BRYAN, United States
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Grain sorghum grazing systems for livestock utilization in late summer and winter	William Lee, MS	University of Missouri; Plant Science and Technology; Columbia, United States
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Optimizing kafirin extraction using Gibbs free energy of cavity creation to rationalize solvent choice	Freya Knaggs, MS	UMR IATE; Montpellier, France
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Efficacy of biological control agents (BCAs) in the suppression of sorghum anthracnose caused by Colletotrichum sublineolum	Ronald Kakeeto, PhD	National Agricultural Research organization (NARO)- National Semi Arid Resources Research Institute

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
			(NaSARRI); Soroti, Uganda

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 6: Strengthening value chains, seed systems and market opportunities to build more resilient and profitable sorghum industries

Location: South Meeting Room 102

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Constraints and opportunities in the sorghum value chain: implications for enterprise development in Lesotho	Pulane Nkhabutlane, PhD	National University of Lesotho; Agricultural Economics and Extension - Consumer Science; Maseru, Lesotho
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Self-scaling millet- and sorghum-based food processing system improves nutrition indicators in rural communities of Sahelian West Africa	Bruce Hamaker, PhD	Purdue University; Food Science; West Lafayette, United States
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Genetic factors influencing female seed set to improve the effectiveness of hybrid sorghum seed production	Laura Torres Gonzalez, MS	The University of Queensland; Centre for crop science; Warwick, Australia
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Bridging value chain gaps through stakeholder insights, consumer research and applied food science for premium sorghum foods	Jaqueline Moura Nadolny, PhD	The University of Queensland; Brisbane, Australia

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 3: Managing grain, forage, and biomass sorghum production to optimize yield, quality and systems resilience to maximize economic returns

Location: South Meeting Room 104-105

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Development of nutrient-enriched silage sorghum through strategic crossbreeding and marker-assisted selection	Shejal Soumen, MS	Texas Tech University; Department of Plant and Soil Science, Institute of Genomics for Crop Abiotic Stress Tolerance (IGCAST); Lubbock, United States
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Plant traits related to biomass production in photoperiod sensitive sorghum genotypes	Qingwu Xue, PhD	Texas A&M AgriLife High Plains Research and Extension Center; Soil and Crop Sciences; Canyon, United States
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Genome-wide association study for stem mechanical and morphological traits in a sorghum bioenergy association panel	Lalit BC, MS	Fort Valley State University; Fort Valley, United States
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Identifying genetic targets for mineral biofortification in African sorghum breeding programs	Rae McDowell, MS	Colorado State University; Horticulture and Landscape Architecture; Fort Collins, United States

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 2: Leveraging advances in genomics for enhancing yield gain and stress resilience

Location: South Meeting Room 107

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Multi-environment GWAS uncovers stable and pleiotropic loci associated with drought resilience and grain yield traits in sorghum	Firezer Kebede, MS	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research; Crop Research; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Genetic mapping of post-flowering drought resilience in sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> L. Moench): novel QTL identified in a backcross-derived stay-green population	Joseph Pascal Sene	Centre National de Recherches Agronomiques (CNRA); Bambey, Senegal
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Predicting lodging in sorghum breeding trials using phenomics and genomic approaches	Srinivasa Reddy Mothukuri, MS	The University of Queensland; Quantitative and Statistical Genetics; Warwick, Australia
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Identifying the genetic basis of sorghum Chinch bug resistance using the GRF4-GIF1 CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing pipeline	Shruthi Pullangari	Kansas State University; Interdepartmental Genetics; Manhattan, United States

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 4: Emerging technologies and their application potential - commercialization opportunities for the sorghum industry

Location: South Meeting Room 108-109

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Title (TBD)	Valérie Brochet	National Federation of Maize and Sorghum Seed Production, Montardon, France
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Proximal soil-water sensing for non-invasive phenotyping the hidden half of sorghum	Dongxue Zhao, PhD	The University of Queensland; Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI); Gatton, Australia
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	A haploid induction system for sorghum breeding applications	Samuel Hester, MS	Texas A&M University; Soil and Crop Sciences; Bryan, United States
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Biogas and biomethane potential of biomass and sweet sorghum hybrids as energy crops	Rafael Parrella, PhD	Embrapa Maize and Sorghum; EMBRAPA; Sete Lagoas, Brazil

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 1: Reduce yield gaps and enhance resilience to changing environments

Location: South Meeting Room 111-112

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Stomatal dynamics as a breeding target for water use efficiency and yield in Sorghum	Dinesh Kumar Saini, PhD	Texas Tech University, Texas, USA; Plant and Soil Science; Lubbock, United States
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Deciphering root adaptations and water-use strategies in sorghum under drought and well-watered conditions	Srividhya Sundaram, PhD	ICAR- Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad, Telangana, India; Department of Crop Production; Hyderabad, India
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Integrating root traits, microbiome dynamics, and hormone-regulated metabolism to enhance drought resilience in sorghum-legume systems	Kiran Suresh, PhD	Hochschule Rhein-Waal University of Applied Sciences; Department of Life Sciences; Kleve, Germany

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Eco-physiological mechanisms driving differential adaptation of sorghum and corn across sowing dates under water and heat stress	Bernardo Batlle	Agroinnova

5:00 PM–6:05 PM | 3-Minute Thesis Competition (Preliminaries)

University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia and OZ Sorghum

Location: Theatre

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
5:00 PM–5:03 PM	Can electricity replace herbicides in organic sorghum?	Sougata Roy, PhD	Texas A&M University; Soil and Crop Science; BRYAN, United States
5:03 PM–5:06 PM	A smartphone application to estimate sorghum panicle traits using in-field imagery	Gustavo Nocera Santiago, MS	Purdue University; Agronomy; West Lafayette, United States
5:06 PM–5:09 PM	Beyond recalcitrance: breaking the bottleneck of sorghum genetic transformation using developmental regulators	FNU Pallavi, PhD	Texas Tech University; IGCST, Plant and Soil Science; Lubbock, United States
5:09 PM–5:12 PM	Beyond lgs1: diversifying striga resistance in sorghum	Portia Osei Obeng	Kansas State University; Agronomy; Manhattan, United States
5:12 PM–5:15 PM	Genome-wide association study identifies consistent genomic loci for yield and nutritional quality in Ethiopian sorghum landraces	Chalachew Endalamaw Engida, PhD	University of the Free State; South Africa
5:15 PM–5:18 PM	Leveraging community-generated phenotypic data to study pleiotropy in sorghum	Harshita Mangal	University of Nebraska; Lincoln, United States
5:18 PM–5:21 PM	Redesigning sorghum starch for the food industry	Viswanadh Sudarsanam, MS	Purdue University; Department of Agronomy; West Lafayette, United States
5:21 PM–5:24 PM	Tissue culture free sorghum transformation may shrink genetic modification timeline	Christopher Barron	Purdue University; Agronomy; West Lafayette, United States
5:24 PM–5:27 PM	Sorghum tolerance to mesotrione-based formulations applied preemergence	John Kohler	Texas Tech University; Plant and Soil Science; Lubbock, United States
5:27 PM–5:30 PM	Better sorghum, better feed: integrating field traits, DNA markers, and gene editing	Sabreena Ayoub Parray, MS	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY; Agronomy; Manhattan, United States
5:30 PM–5:33 PM	Identifying natural variants impacting grain iron content and localization in sorghum	Rae McDowell, MS	Colorado State University; Horticulture and Landscape Architecture; Fort Collins, United States
5:33 PM–5:36 PM	AMMI and GGE analysis of GxE and yield stability of early maturing sorghum [Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench] genotypes in dry lowland areas of Ethiopia	Zigale Yitayeh, MS	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research; Plant breeding; Melkassa, Adama/Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
5:36 PM–5:39 PM	Strong stem, stable yield	Mayank Bangari	Texas Tech University; Plant and Soil Science; Lubbock, United States
5:39 PM–5:42 PM	Extrusion processing and hydrocolloids: nutritional and sensory properties of biscuits made of precooked whole sorghum flours as well as sorghum rolled flour	Cheikh Ndiaye, PhD	Institut de technologie alimentaire (ITA); Sensory and quality control; Dakar, Senegal
5:42 PM–5:45 PM	How much water does a crop really need?	Chaitanya Purushothama, MS	The University of Queensland; Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation; St Lucia, Qld, Australia

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
5:45 PM–5:48 PM	Predicting lodging in sorghum breeding trials using phenomic and genomic approaches	Srinivasa Reddy Mothukuri, MS	The University of Queensland; Quantitative and Statistical Genetics; Warwick, Australia

6:00 PM–7:00 PM | Posters Open

Location: Exhibit Hall

6:15 PM–8:00 PM | Meet & Greet Social

Host Welcoming Comments: Sarah Sexton-Bowser Global Sorghum Association; Manhattan, Kansas, United States

Location: Exhibit Hall Join fellow conference attendees for a relaxed **Meet & Greet Social** featuring appetizers and drinks, conversation, and networking. This informal gathering is a great opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, make new professional connections, exchange ideas, and meet attendees from across the conference community.

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 – Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

7:30 AM–8:30 AM | Continental Breakfast

Location: Pedestrian Mall

8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Media Room

Location: Room 110

8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Speaker Prep Room

Location: Room 106

8:30 AM–10:30 AM | Opening and Plenary Session

Location: Conference - Theatre

Moderator: Kira Everhart-Valentin, Gates Ag One - Manhattan, Kansas, United States

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	Opening comments	Kira Everhart-Valentin	Gates Ag One
8:40 AM–9:10 AM	Keynote speaker: David Jordan	David Jordan, PhD	The University of Queensland; Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), The University of Queensland; Warwick, Australia
9:10 AM–9:35 AM	Sorghum: from production & one health to food as medicine in inflammatory metabolic diseases	Naima Moustaid-Moussa, PhD	Texas Tech University; One Health Innovation; Lubbock, United States
9:35 AM–10:00 AM	Plenary speaker: Lanier Dabruzzi	Lanier Dabruzzi	United Sorghum Checkoff Program
10:00 AM–10:25 AM	From Grain to Value: The transformation science turning sorghum into a high value global ingredient	Monia Caramma, MS	Pregassona, Switzerland

8:30 AM–12:00 PM | Exhibits Visitation

Location: Exhibit Hall

8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Registration and Check-in Concierge

Location: Pedestrian Mall

10:30 AM–11:00 AM | Break

Location: Conference – Pedestrian Mall

11:00 AM–12:30 PM | Panels for Food & Nutrition

Location: Conference – Theatre

Moderator: Kira Everhart-Valentin — Gates Ag One - Manhattan, Kansas United States

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
Panel 1 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Nourishing the future: Sorghum's role in health & nutrition globally Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa and Dr. Allison Childress	Panel Leader: Kira-Everhart-Valentin	Gates Ag One Foundation Texas Tech University
Panel 2: 11:30 PM – 12:20 PM	Incorporating sorghum into cuisine and innovative food products	Panel Leader: Lanier Dabruzzi	United Sorghum Checkoff Program

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
		Clint White Jessica Davidoff Chef Chase Obenchain	Cobb Foods
12:20 PM – 12:30 PM	Panel takeaways and closing remarks	Kira Everhart-Valentin	Gates Ag One Foundation

12:30 PM–2:00 PM | Lunch

Location: Exhibit Hall

12:45 PM–1:30 PM | Workshop: Sorghum on the Menu: Innovative Culinary Applications - Chef Chase Obenchain

Location: Exhibit Hall

12:30 PM–2:00 PM | Workshop: NASA Acres: Remote Sensing for Agriculture - Ignacio Ciampitti & Faith Riensche (Purdue University)

Location: South Meeting Room 111-112

2:00 PM–5:30 PM | Exhibits Visitation

Location: Exhibit Hall

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 5: Exploring new products and novel horizons for human, livestock and industrial applications

Location: South Meeting Room 101

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Exploring the market potential of US sorghum as a pet food ingredient in Mexico	Modhurima Amin, PhD	Texas Tech University; Agricultural and Applied Economics Department; Lubbock, United States
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Integrated sequential biorefinery approach for complete sorghum stover valorization and versatile product development	Anjana Chakkalakal Sabu, MS	Texas Tech University; Plant and Soil Science; Lubbock, United States
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Advancing sorghum as a value-added crop through characterization of polyphenols and their bioactive properties	Dmitriy Smolensky, PhD	USDA-ARS; Manhattan, United States
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	The effect of biomaterials coating on sensory properties of potatoes during storage	Hadeel Obeidat, PhD	Irbis National University; Jordan, Jordan

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 6: Strengthening value chains, seed systems and market opportunities to build more resilient and profitable sorghum industries

Location: South Meeting Room 102

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Speaker	Amie Mass, MS	Grain Processing; Wichita, United States
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Scaling adoption of hybrid sorghum in West Africa through a public–private partnership model: the seed systems group (SSG) approach.	Issoufou Kapran, PhD	Seed Systems Group (SSG); Nairobi, Kenya
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Trait preference for improved sorghum varieties: best-worst application	Etaferahu Kassa Ejegu, PhD	Kansas State University; Agricultural Economics; Manhattan, United States

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	Eastern and Southern Africa sorghum value chains research and development initiatives in the last decade: A perspective.	Eric Manyasa, PhD	Private Consultant; Nairobi., Kenya

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 3: Managing grain, forage, and biomass sorghum production to optimize yield, quality and systems resilience to maximize economic returns

Location: South Meeting Room 104-105

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Building the foundation for sustainable development and deployment of sorghum hybrids through the Africa dryland crops improvement network	Baloua Nebie, PhD	CIMMYT; Dryland Crops Program; Dakar, Senegal
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Yield component compensation in grain sorghum following growth stage-specific leaf area and stand reduction	Ronnie Schnell, PhD	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension; Soil & Crop Science Dept.; College Station, United States
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Multi-omics insights into iron and zinc stress responses in sorghum for nutrient-efficient breeding	Sunita Kumari, PhD	Cold Spring Harbor Labs; Plant Genomics; NY, United States
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	Comparative efficacy and residual activity of insecticides targeting sorghum head worms in U.S. grain sorghum production systems	Tyler Gilreath, PhD	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension; Entomology; Canyon, United States

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 2: Leveraging advances in genomics for enhancing yield gain and stress resilience

Location: South Meeting Room 107

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Beyond static consensus maps: a scalable and continuously updatable consensus framework capturing variability in recombination landscape	Mahendra babu Kurapati, MS	Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), The University of Queensland; Warwick, Australia
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Finding sorghum for the future fast and efficiently	Anko Blaakmeer, PhD	Carlsberg Research Laboratory; Copenhagen, Denmark
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	High-throughput quantification of midrib color reveals allelic series at dry and regulatory networks of cell wall biosynthesis in sorghum	Karla Montserrat Cuellar Perez, PhD	University of Nebraska–Lincoln; Lincoln, United States

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 4: Emerging technologies and their application potential - commercialization opportunities for the sorghum industry

Location: South Meeting Room 108-109

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Decortication-gelatinization coupling in Sorghum processing: a decade of industrial evidence for superior food quality, shelf-life extension, and nickel reduction	Monia Caramma, MS	Pregassona, Switzerland
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Grain quality and potential of large seeded sorghums	Matthew Davis	Kansas State University; Agronomy; Manhattan, United States

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	From tradition to technology: unlocking the commercial potential of sorghum-based functional foods in South Africa	Mathoto Thaoge Zwane, PhD	Tshwane University of Technology; Bioechnology and Food Technology; Arcadia Pretoria, South Africa
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	Hybrid vision–language ai for annotation-free sorghum panicle quantification and interpretation	Prabha Sundaravadivel, PhD	The University of Texas at Tyler; Electrical and Computer Engineering; Tyler, United States

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 1: Reduce yield gaps and enhance resilience to changing environments

Location: South Meeting Room 111-112

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Speaker	William Rooney, PhD	Texas A&M; Soil and Crop Science; College Station, American Samoa
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	A grass-specific structural feature of myosin viii regulates protoxylem development and hydraulic conductance in sorghum	Zhiyuan Liu, PhD	Texas Tech University; TTU; Lubbock, United States
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Accelerating sorghum improvement for drought resilience using genomic prediction	Pradeep Kumar	Texas Tech University; Department of Plant and Soil Science; Lubbock, United States
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	A lignin-based molecular heater enhances chilling tolerance in sorghum: integrating morpho-physiological and biochemical evidence	Chakri Voruganti, PhD	Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute; Plant and soil science; Lubbock, United States

3:30 PM–4:00 PM | Break

Location: South Pedestrian Mall

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 5: Exploring new products and novel horizons for human, livestock and industrial applications

Location: South Meeting Room 101

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Sorghum as a healthy option for US consumers: perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors explained by the theory of planned behavior	Oak-Hee Park, PhD	Texas Tech University; Nutritional Sciences; Lubbock, United States
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Evaluation of locally fortified 'food-to-food' sorghum-based flours (Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench) without premix	Moustapha Moussa, PhD	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger(INRAN); Laboratoire de Technologie Alimentaire(LTA); Niamey, Niger
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Extrusion processing and hydrocolloids: nutritional and sensory properties of biscuits made of precooked whole sorghum flours as well as sorghum rolled flour	Cheikh Ndiaye, PhD	Institut de technologie alimentaire (ITA); Sensory and quality control; Dakar, Senegal
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Irrigation and prussic acid free forage-sorghum effects on beef × dairy steers digestive physiology	Ahmari Henry, MS	Texas Tech University; Lubbock, United States

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 6: Strengthening value chains, seed systems and market opportunities to build more resilient and profitable sorghum industries

Location: South Meeting Room 102

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Is sorghum trying to win the wrong game?	Florentino Lopez	Utopia, United States
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	From trait to trade: farmer perceptions of risk, value chains, and possibilities of gene-edited sorghum	Gabriella Subia Smith, PhD	University of California, Berkeley; Innovative Genomics Institute; Berkeley, United States
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Organic sorghum seed systems: bridging plant breeding, agronomy, and market integrity	Bob Whitney	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; Extension Organic Specialist; Stephenville, United States
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Agronomic performance, nutritional quality, fiber digestibility and animal production potential of grain, forage and biomass sorghum silages	Rafael Parrella, PhD	Embrapa Maize and Sorghum; EMBRAPA; Sete Lagoas, Brazil

4:00 PM–5:20 PM | Theme 3: Managing grain, forage, and biomass sorghum production to optimize yield, quality and systems resilience to maximize economic returns

Location: South Meeting Room 104-105

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Effect of sorghum berry size, roll gap, and ensiling duration on berry processing score and starch digestibility	Aline Martelo Pereira, MS	Texas A&M University; Animal Science; College Station, United States
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	How impactful is in-season N application on sorghum: discussing potential management options and pitfalls.	Josh Lofton, PhD	Oklahoma State University; Plant and Soil Sciences; Stillwater, United States
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Comparing water use efficiency, evapotranspiration, and greenhouse gas footprints of forage sorghum and forage corn in the Semi-arid Texas High Plains.	Michael Atiemo	Texas A & M University; Crop and Soil Sciences; College Station, United States
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Fungicide strategies driving yield and profit in sorghum safrinha season, Brazil	Tomas Sunblad	Advanta Seeds

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 2: Leveraging advances in genomics for enhancing yield gain and stress resilience

Location: South Meeting Room 107

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	From genomics to field: marker-assisted introgression of Igs1-mediated striga resistance in sorghum	Fanna Maina, PhD	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN) Niamey, Niger; Niamey, Niger
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Chromosome-scale genome assemblies enable comparative analysis of sorghum aphid tolerance in sorghum	Somashekhar Punhuri, PhD	Fort Valley State University; Agricultural Research; Fort Valley, GA, 31030, United States
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Emergent determinants of lodging resistance in sorghum: a systems-level and biomechanics approach	Maria G. Salas-Fernandez, PhD	Iowa State University; Department of Agronomy; Ames, United States

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Flywheel genomics: rapid transfer of knowledge between genetics and breeding for simultaneous trait discovery and genetic gain	Brian Rice, PhD	University of Nebraska; Department of Agronomy and Horticulture; Lincoln, United States

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 4: Emerging technologies and their application potential - commercialization opportunities for the sorghum industry

Location: South Meeting Room 108-109

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Sorghum sequenced mutant library: a community resource for breeding and genomics	Zhanguo Xin, PhD	Plant Stress and Germplasm Development Unit; Lubbock, United States
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Potential of deep learning models for real-time detection of Palmer Amaranth (<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i>) in no-till dryland grain sorghum of Western Kansas	Jeremie Kouame, PhD	Kansas State University; Western Kansas Research and Extension Centers; Hays, United States
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Extending lead time for sorghum production forecasting in Australia using climate forecasts, EO and crop models	Andries Potgieter	The University of Queensland; Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation; Gatton, Australia
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Field-scale portable sensing system for measuring storage parameters of sorghum grain	Suranjan Panigrahi	Affiliation not listed

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 1: Reduce yield gaps and enhance resilience to changing environments

Location: South Meeting Room 111-112

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Modeling adaptation of sorghum in Ethiopia with APSIM- opportunities with GxExM	Alemu Tirfessa W., PhD	Kansas State University; Manhattan, United States
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Uncovering new sources of leaf rust (<i>Puccinia purpurea</i>) resistance in tropical and temperate-adapted sorghum germplasm	Hugo Cuevas, PhD	USDA-Agricultural Research Service; Mayaguez, PR, United States
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Reducing the heat-stress risk to sorghum hybrid Seed production	Tolera Keno, PhD	The University of Queensland; Australia
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Genes and pathways determining flowering time variation in temperate-adapted sorghum	Harshita Mangal	University of Nebraska; Lincoln, United States

5:10 PM–6:00 PM | 3-Minute Thesis Competition (Finals)

University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia and OZ Sorghum

Location: Theatre

6:15 PM–8:00 PM | Sorghum Cuisine International Dinner

Host Welcoming Comments: Norma Ritz-Johnson United Sorghum Checkoff Program; Lubbock, Texas, United States

Location: Banquet Hall **A Taste of Sorghum Around the World!** Celebrate the global reach of sorghum through an evening of food, culture, and fellowship. Enjoy a variety of sorghum-inspired dishes representing culinary traditions and flavors from around the world while connecting with conference attendees from across the globe. Come hungry, try something new, and

experience how one remarkable grain brings cultures—and people—together around the table.

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 – Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

7:00 AM–8:30 AM | SICNA Breakfast & Meeting

Location: Banquet Hall

7:30 AM–8:30 AM | Continental Breakfast

Location: Pedestrian Mall

8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Media Room

Location: Room 110

8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Speaker Prep Room

Location: Room 106

8:30 AM–10:40 AM | Opening & Plenary Session

Location: Conference – Theatre

Moderator: Darren Hudson — Texas Tech University; Davis College; Lubbock, Texas, United States

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
8:30 AM–8:40 AM	Opening remarks	Darren Hudson, PhD	Lubbock, United States
8:40 AM–9:10 AM	Keynote speaker- Holly Mayton	Holly Mayton	John Deere
9:10 AM–9:40 AM	Plenary speaker- Steve Martin	Steve Martin	DNMC Milk; Happy, United States
9:40 AM–10:30 AM	Panel: the global commodity outlook: key headwinds and growth opportunities for sorghum	Tim Lust Valerie Brochet, Florentino Lopez	USCP Creando Mañana

8:30 AM–12:30 PM | Exhibits Visitation

Location: Exhibit Hall

8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Concierge

Location: Pedestrian Mall

10:30 AM–11:00 AM | Break

Location: Conference – Pedestrian Mall

11:00 AM–12:35 PM | Opening & Plenary Sessions

Location: Conference – Theatre

Moderator: Darren Hudson — Texas Tech University; Davis College; Lubbock, Texas, United States

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
11:00 AM–11:05 AM	Moderator	Darren Hudson, PhD	Lubbock, United States
11:05 AM–11:35 AM	Keynote speaker	Kira Everhart-Valentin	Manhattan, United States
11:35 AM–12:35 AM	Panel: accelerating trait deployment: commercial perspectives on the next generation of seed technologies	Brent Bean, Cleve Franks, Pedro Pardo, EU Representative	

12:30 PM–2:00 PM | Lunch**Location:** Exhibit Hall**12:30 PM–2:00 PM | Workshop: reimagining public–private partnerships for global trait innovation, David Jordan and Sarah Sexton-Bowser****Location:** South Meeting Room 102**12:30 PM–2:00 PM | Workshop: advancements in sorghum for cattle consumption, Jourdan Bell, Panel: Jerry O’Rear, Randy (RCI), Juan Pineiro****Location:** South Meeting Room 111-112**2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Idea Challenge**

Location: Banquet Hall **Big Ideas. Bold Solutions. The Future of Sorghum!** The **Idea Challenge** brings innovation to the stage as participants pitch creative solutions to real-world challenges and opportunities across the global sorghum value chain. Competitors will present their ideas before a panel of judges, showcasing new approaches in areas such as research, production, technology, sustainability, food and nutrition, and value-added uses. A **First-Place Winner will receive a cash prize**, and conference attendees will have the opportunity to get involved by voting for the **People’s Choice Award**. Join us to cheer on the competitors, discover fresh ideas, cast your vote, and see which innovative concepts rise to the top!

2:00 PM–5:30 PM | Exhibits Visitation**Location:** Exhibit Hall**2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 5: Exploring new products and novel horizons for human, livestock and industrial applications****Location:** South Meeting Room 101**Moderator:**

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	From field to food: scaling sorghum for human nutrition through processing innovation and market adoption	Jessica Spanton	Nu Life Market; Director of Technical Sales; Scott City, United States
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	From fermentation to fortification: unlocking sorghum’s nutritional promise using innovative processes and formulations	Nomusa Dlamini, PhD	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; Advanced Agriculture and Food Cluster; Pretoria, South Africa
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Title:Abstract: Sorghum’s resilience, low-input requirements, and biochemical diversity position it uniquely at the intersection of food security, animal nutrition, and bioindustrial innovation. As global agriculture pivots toward regenerative systems, sorghum can serve as a scalable platform.	Tommy Nays	Global Revive; Agriculture; Jacksonville, Texas, United States
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	Advancing the prussic acid-free trait to evaluate metabolic and stress resilience in pf sorghum	Anita Kumari, PhD	Texas Tech University; Plant and Soil Science; Lubbock, United States

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 3: Managing grain, forage, and biomass sorghum production to optimize yield, quality and systems resilience to maximize economic returns**Location:** South Meeting Room 104-105

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Frost effects on dhurrin accumulation and persistence in sorghum	Shelby Gruss, PhD	Iowa State University; Ames, United States
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Evaluating sorghum genotypes for high-quality silage	Sabreena Ayoub Parray, MS	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY; Agronomy; Manhattan, United States
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Closing yield gaps or shifting environments? rethinking resilience in sorghum systems	Sarah Sexton-Bowser, PhD	Kansas State University; Center for Sorghum Improvement; Manhattan, United States
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	High-biomass sorghum and its feasibility as a feedstock for advanced biofuel production	DK Lee	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; United States

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 2: Leveraging advances in genomics for enhancing yield gain and stress resilience

Location: South Meeting Room 107

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Genomic prediction of hybrid performance for chilling tolerance in grain sorghum	Ajay Prasanth Ramalingam, PhD	Kansas State University; Agronomy; Manhattan, United States
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Sorghum dormancy QTL enhancing pre-harvest sprouting resistance: nil-based validation and refinement of qdor-9.	Martín Marchetti	Facultad de Agronomía
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Marker-assisted breeding for developing tembotrione and mesotrione tolerance in grain sorghum	Fahima Khatun, MS	Kansas State University; Agronomy; Manhattan, United States
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	Engineering SURON: a novel broad-spectrum als-tolerance trait in sorghum via heuristic breeding	Lucas Lieber, PhD	Rosario, Argentina

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 4: Emerging technologies and their application potential - commercialization opportunities for the sorghum industry

Location: South Meeting Room 108-109

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Remote sensing data and machine learning models estimate sorghum grain yield in a plant breeding program	Nicholas Pugh, PhD	USDA-ARS; Plant Stress and Germplasm Development Unit; Lubbock, United States
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	Linking stomatal architecture to stomatal conductance in sorghum: resolving spatial and physiological constraints for scalable phenotyping	Chaitanya Purushothama, MS	The University of Queensland; Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation,; St Lucia, Qld, Australia
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	gene flow between sorghum and weedy relatives: risk, consequences, and stewardship approaches	Muthukumar Bagavathiannan	Texas A&M University
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	RiSorgo – from field to fork: first processing results from variety testing and pasta production with grain sorghum in Switzerland	Monia Caramma, MS	Pregassona, Switzerland

2:00 PM–3:30 PM | Theme 1: Reduce yield gaps and enhance resilience to changing environments

Location: South Meeting Room 111-112

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM–2:20 PM	Unlocking New Opportunities with Prussic Acid–Free Sorghum	Mitchell Tuinstra, PhD	Purdue University; Department of Agronomy; West Lafayette, United States
2:20 PM–2:40 PM	The influence of environment and genetics on sorghum grain weight and size	Edgar Correa	Texas A&M University; Department of Soil and Crop Sciences; College Station, United States
2:40 PM–3:00 PM	Phenological responses of modern sorghum genotypes to sowing date and cycle length across the U.S. Great Plains	Federico Gomez	Purdue University; Department of Agronomy; West Lafayette, United States
3:00 PM–3:20 PM	Evaluating the effect of seed size on seedling-stage drought tolerance in sorghum near-isogenic lines (NILs)	Temitope Olatunde	Kansas State University; Agronomy; Manhattan, United States

3:30 PM–4:00 PM | Break**Location:** South Pedestrian Mall**4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 2: Leveraging advances in genomics for enhancing yield gain and stress resilience****Location:** South Meeting Room 107**Moderator:**

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Sorghum pan-genomic resources unveil networks governing inflorescence traits	Nicholas Gladman, PhD	USDA-ARS; United States
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Pangenome-enabled breeding for striga resistant sorghum	Portia Osei Obeng	Kansas State University; Agronomy; Manhattan, United States
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Genomic evidence for decoupling perenniality and yield in diploid perennial sorghum	Pheonah Nabukalu, PhD	The Land Institute; SALINA, United States
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	A community-driven, pangenome-informed design of a high-density 100k genotyping array for sorghum improvement	Kapeel Chougule, MS	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; Ware Lab; Cold Spring Harbor, United States

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 3: Managing grain, forage, and biomass sorghum production to optimize yield, quality and systems resilience to maximize economic returns**Location:** South Meeting Room 104-105**Moderator:**

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Morphophysiological traits associated with drought tolerance in grain sorghum under pre- and post-flowering stress	Cícero Menezes, PhD	EMBRAPA; Sete Lagoas, Brazil
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	RiSorgo - from field to fork: first agronomic results from variety testing and pasta production with grain sorghum in Switzerland	Sophia Bohländer, MS	Agroscope; Arable Crops; Zurich, Switzerland
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Sorghum–brachiaria intercropping enabled by igrowth herbicide tolerance	João Vitor Gonçalves Moreira	Advanta Seeds

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 4: Emerging technologies and their application potential - commercialization opportunities for the sorghum industry**Location:** South Meeting Room 108-109**Moderator:**

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Researcher and founder: building commercial technology without leaving science	Nadia Shakoor	Donald Danforth Plant Science Center; Saint Louis, United States
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Genetic variability in TFMSA response shapes hybridization efficiency in sorghum	Kinde Ketema, PhD	Kansas State University; Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University; Manhattan, , United States
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	A web-based ai platform for automated sorghum panicle quantification via segmentation-based vision models	Rishita Bansal, PhD	The University of Texas at Dallas; Computer Science; Dallas, United States
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Towards building a global food systems datahub: lessons from wheat knowledge graphs for sorghum systems	Hande Küçük McGinty, PhD	Kansas State University; Department of Computer Science; Manhattan, United States

4:00 PM–5:30 PM | Theme 1: Reduce yield gaps and enhance resilience to changing environments

Location: South Meeting Room 111-112

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
4:00 PM–4:20 PM	Optimizing the specific adaptation of sorghum in contrasting water-limited environments	Alex Wu, PhD	The University of Queensland; Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation; Australia
4:20 PM–4:40 PM	Integrating glasshouse root phenotyping and field water-use dynamics	Cheng Qian	The University of Queensland; Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI); Gatton, Australia
4:40 PM–5:00 PM	Genotype-by-environment interactions shape arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal communities in sorghum	Sofie Pearson, PhD	Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), The University of Queensland; Warwick, Australia
5:00 PM–5:20 PM	Germplasm evaluation and multi-omics approaches for strategic improvement of plant defense and sustainable sorghum production	Yinghua Huang, PhD	USDA-ARS and Oklahoma State University; United States

5:00 PM–6:00 PM | Shuttle Bus Transport to the National Ranching Heritage Center for the Western Gala dinner, 3121 4th Street

Location: Pedestrian Mall

6:00 PM–10:00 PM | Western Gala Dinner – National Ranching Heritage Center

Location: National Ranching Heritage Center

An Evening in the American West! Experience the spirit and hospitality of West Texas at our **Western Gala**, set among the rich history and traditions of ranching and the American West at the National Ranching Heritage Center. Enjoy a memorable evening featuring Texas-inspired cuisine and featured sorghum dishes, entertainment, music, and plenty of opportunities to visit with friends and colleagues from around the world. Come ready to relax, have some fun, and experience a true taste of West Texas!

9:30 PM–11:00 PM | Shuttle Bus Transport**Location:** leaving National Ranching Heritage Center back to hotels

Thursday, September 17, 2026 – Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

7:30 AM–8:30 AM | Continental Breakfast**Location:** Pedestrian Mall**8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Media Room****Location:** Room 110**8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Speaker Prep Room****Location:** Room 106**8:30 AM–10:30 AM | Opening & Plenary Session****Location:** Conference – Theatre**Moderator:** Krishna Jagadish — Texas Tech University; Davis College Department of Plant & Soil Sciences; Lubbock, United States

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
8:35 AM–9:05 AM	Plenary speaker- Luis Herrera-Estrella	Luis Herrera-Estrella, PhD	Texas Tech University; Plant and Soil Science; Lubbock, United States
9:05 AM–9:35 AM	Plenary speaker- John Duff	John Duff	United Sorghum Checkoff Program
9:35 AM–10:05 AM	A Vision for Sorghum Research: Accelerate Discovery, Validation, and Delivery of Sorghum Solutions	Nora Lapitan, PhD	USDA-ARS; Beltsville, MD, United States
10:05 AM – 10:30	Beyond the Paddock: Anticipating Crop Performance through Digital Predictive Systems	Andries Potgieter, PhD	University of Queensland, Australia

8:30 AM–12:30 PM | Exhibits Visitation**Location:** Exhibit Hall**8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Concierge****Location:** Pedestrian Mall**10:30 AM–11:00 AM | Break****Location:** Pedestrian Mall**11:00 AM–12:30 PM | Theme 3: Managing grain, forage, and biomass sorghum production to optimize yield, quality and systems resilience to maximize economic returns****Location:** South Meeting Room 104-105**Moderator:**

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
11:00 AM–11:20 AM	Integrative drought tolerance breeding of sorghum for early maturity, harvest index, and water use efficiency	Hussien Shimelis	University of KwaZulu-Natal; African Centre for Crop Improvement; School of Agriculture and Science; Durban, South Africa
11:20 AM–11:40 AM	Quantification of micronutrients in Sorghum grains captures variation in iron and zinc in EMS mutant collection	Jamal Mohammed, PhD	Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture; Texas A&M AgriLife Research;

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
			college station, United States
11:40 AM–12:00 PM	Corn rootworm management through forage sorghum systems	Shane Halfmann, MS	Advanta Seeds; Technology Development; College Station, United States

11:00 AM–12:30 PM | Theme 2: Leveraging advances in genomics for enhancing yield gain and stress resilience

Location: South Meeting Room 107

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
11:00 AM–11:20 AM	Development and validation of molecular markers for the stay-green 5 (Stg5) locus associated with dhurrin biosynthesis in sorghum [<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench]	Temitope Olatunde	Kansas State University; Agronomy; Manhattan, United States
11:20 AM–11:40 AM	Integrating precision soil and genetic mapping to identify iron deficiency chlorosis tolerance loci in sorghum	Naqeebullah Kakar, PhD	Kansas State University; Agronomy; Manhattan, United States
11:40 AM–12:00 PM	Genomic analysis reveals the genetic structure underlying US commercial sorghum breeding programs	Nneka Okereke, MS	Colorado State University; Soil and Crop Sciences; Fort Collins, United States
12:00 PM–12:20 PM	Predicting fitness effects of genetic variants by protein language models: experimental validation and calibration in sorghum	Guillaume Ramstein, PhD	Aarhus University; Center for Quantitative Genetics and Genomics; Aarhus, Denmark

11:00 AM–12:30 PM | Theme 1: Reduce yield gaps and enhance resilience to changing environments

Location: South Meeting Room 111-112

Moderator:

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
11:00 AM–11:20 AM	Over 100 years of sorghum research at K-State tribune. oving forwardM with sorghum as a key component of dynamic water-limited cropping systems.	Lucas Haag, PhD	K-State Western Kansas Research-Extension Centers; Tribune Experiment Station; Tribune, United States
11:20 AM–11:40 AM	Evaluation of sorghum hybrids for drought adaptation and yield stability under South Carolina conditions	Fetien Abera, PhD	1890 Research & Extension, South Carolina State University; Center of Plant Breeding, Genetics & Genomics (CPBGG); Orangeburg, United States
11:40 AM–12:00 PM	Elevated temperature responses in sorghum: exploring metabolic networks and the role of brassinosteroid signaling	Natalie Laibach, PhD	Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences; Life Sciences; Kleve, Germany

12:30 PM–2:00 PM | Lunch

Location: Exhibit Hall

12:45 PM–2:00 PM | Workshop: ARS Sorghum Roadmap – Oswald Crasta, USDA

Location: Banquet Hall

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
12:30 PM–2:00 PM	Workshop Lead: Oswald Crasta	Oswald Crasta	USDA-ARS; Beltsville, United States

1:00 PM–2:00 PM | Poster Session

Location: Exhibit Hall

2:00 PM–4:30 PM | Exhibits Visitation

Location: Exhibit Hall

2:00 PM–4:30 PM | Plenary, GSA Meeting, Awards, Closing Remarks

Location: Theatre

Moderator: Nouredine Abidi — Texas Tech University; Office of Research and Innovation; Lubbock, United States

Time	Presentation	Speaker(s)	Affiliation
2:00 PM – 2:10 PM	Starting Wrap-Up Session	Nouredine Abidi, PhD	TTU Office of Research and Innovation
2:10 PM – 3:10 PM	Global Sorghum Association Member Meeting and Business	Global Sorghum Association Board	
3:10 PM – 3:30 PM	Awards and Recognitions -2D Art -3D Art -Photo Contest -3MT -Idea Challenge	Nouredine Abidi, PhD	TTU Office of Research and Innovation
3:30 PM – 3:50 PM	Announcement of Selected Host for next Global Sorghum Conference	David Jordan, Chair	Global Sorghum Assn.
3:50 PM – 4:30 PM	Closing Remarks and Highlights	Nouredine Abidi, PhD	TTU Office of Research and Innovation
	3:50- 4:00- Tim Lust, CEO	Tim Lust, CEO	United Sorghum Checkoff Program
	4:00-4:10- David Jordan, PhD	David Jordan, Chair	Global Sorghum Assn.
	4:10-4:20- James Reecy, PhD	James Reecy, VPR	TTU Office of Research and Innovation
	4:20-4:30- Final comments and reminders- Nouredine Abidi, PhD	Nouredine Abidi, PhD	TTU Office of Research and Innovation

5:30 PM | Dinner on your own

4:30 PM–5:30 PM | Exhibits may dismantle

Location: Exhibit Hall

Friday, September 18, 2026 – Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

8:30 AM–noon | Dismantle Exhibits & Posters

Location: Exhibit Hall Posters not claimed by noon will be discarded

8:30 AM–noon | Concierge

Location: Pedestrian Mall

7:30 AM–3:30 PM | Scientific Visits – Research & Commercial

Location: Gather at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

See Sorghum and West Texas Agriculture in Action! Get out into the field and experience the agriculture, research, innovation, and industries that make the region unique. Conference tours provide an opportunity to see research and production firsthand, visit with researchers and industry professionals, and explore the challenges and innovations shaping the future of sorghum and agriculture in the High Plains.

9:00 AM–3:30 PM | Wind Power Center and FiberMax Center for Discovery

Location: Gather at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

Discover the Innovation and Heritage of the Texas High Plains! Explore two unique destinations that showcase the region's agricultural heritage and its role in renewable energy. Visit the **American Wind Power Center** to discover the history and evolution of wind energy and see one of the world's largest collections of historic windmills. Then travel to the **FiberMax Center for Discovery** for an interactive look at the people, equipment, technology, and innovations that have shaped agriculture on the Texas High Plains. This tour offers a fascinating perspective on how ingenuity, natural resources, and agriculture continue to shape the region.

10:00 AM–3:00 PM | Wineries Tour

Location: Gather at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

Discover the Wines of the Texas High Plains! Experience another side of West Texas agriculture with visits to **Newsom Cellars** and **McPherson Cellars**, two names closely connected to the region's growing wine industry. Learn about grape production and winemaking in the Texas High Plains, sample locally produced wines, and discover how the region's climate, soils, and agricultural heritage have helped establish West Texas as one of the state's premier wine-growing regions. Relax, enjoy the flavors of the High Plains, and raise a glass to a memorable conference week!

7:00 PM | FOOTBALL

Extend Your Stay and Experience Red Raider Football! If you are staying in Lubbock Friday night, take advantage of a special opportunity to experience Texas Tech football! The **Texas Tech Red Raiders will take on the Houston Cougars Friday, September 18, at 7:00 p.m.** in Lubbock. Discounted tickets are available for conference attendees through the link provided below. Stay an extra evening, enjoy the excitement of a Texas Tech game day, and experience one more great West Texas tradition!

<https://texastech.venue.net/promotions/SORGHUM26>

Celebrating Connections and Looking to the Future! As the Global Sorghum Conference comes to a close, join fellow attendees in reflecting on a week of new ideas, discoveries, collaborations, and friendships. We hope the conversations and connections made in Lubbock continue long after the conference and inspire new opportunities to advance sorghum research, production, innovation, and utilization around the world.