PURDUE UNIVERSITY

TOP FARMER CONFERENCE

JANUARY 8, 2027

REGISTER TODAY

Join us in West Lafayette or Virtually!
Registration is $150

Agenda

times listed are in Eastern Standard Time (EST)

8:00 AM - LIGHT BREAKFAST
Join us to network with colleagues over a light breakfast

9:00 AM - WELCOME & INSIGHTS FROM THE MOST RECENT AG ECONOMY BAROMETER
Michael Langemeier, Director & Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

Michael is one of the co-authors of the monthly Ag Economy Barometer report. In addition to gauging producer sentiment, monthly reports often include questions pertaining to policy developments and management practices.

9:30 AM - LONG-RUN OUTLOOK FOR CORN & SOYBEANS
Grant Gardner, Assistant Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

One of the premier extension crop outlook economists in the country, Grant will share his thoughts on the corn and soybean markets, as well as the importance of ethanol and renewable diesel to these markets. Grant has a passion for aiding farm producers and the agricultural industry, which he attributes to his upbringing in southwestern Indiana.

10:30 AM - NETWORKING BREAK

10:45 AM - WHAT WILL 2027 BRING US IN TERMS OF WEATHER?
Austin Pearson, Climatologist at the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, Purdue University

Austin will provide an update of recent climate forecast models. As one of the key climatologists providing input into the U.S. Drought Monitor, Austin will also discuss how drought impacted Corn Belt crop production in 2026, and provide current information related to drought conditions in Indiana and the rest of the Corn Belt.

11:30 AM - NETWORKING OVER LUNCH

JANUARY 8, 2027

12:30 PM - COMPETITIVENESS OF U.S. CORN & SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

Joana Colussi, Research Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

Joana is an expert on comparative production systems and policies in the U.S. and Brazil, and participates in agri benchmark, a global network of agricultural economists, advisors, and producers that use standardized methods to compare production costs and net returns for agricultural commodities in different countries. She will discuss acreage, production, yield, and export trends for corn and soybeans in the United States and Brazil and compare the ethanol and renewable diesel industries in the two countries.

1:30 PM - USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TO HELP MAKE FARM MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Chad Fiechter, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

In a recent Ag Economy Barometer survey, respondents indicated that AI has the potential to improve skills pertaining to financial management and analysis, and strategic planning. Chad is a highly sought after speaker on farm AI adoption. As such, he will share his thoughts on how AI could improve farm management decisions and will discuss how he uses AI in his farm management class.

2:30 PM - NETWORKING BREAK

2:45 PM - STRATEGIES TO REDUCE YOUR COST PER BUSHEL IN 2027

Megan Bournes, Clinical Assistant Professor of Agronomy, Purdue University
Shaun Casteel, Professor of Agronomy, Purdue University
Michael Langemeier, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

Reducing costs without reducing productivity is a challenge every farm will face in 2027. Purdue corn and soybean specialists will share key tips from their research and work with growers while Michael Langemeier will highlight key management strategies you should consider implementing. Each of the specialists will then answer questions from the audience.

4:00 PM - CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

Thanks for joining us!

Thank you to our Conference Sponsor

farm CREDIT MID-AMERICA

LOCATION

BECK AGRICULTURAL CENTER

4550 US-52, West Lafayette, IN

(**Virtual Option**) If you can't attend in person, you can still join us remotely. Registered participants will receive a link to join the conference live prior to the start of the conference. Conference video recordings & slide deck presentations ***will only*** be available to registered participants.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Center for Commercial Agriculture