

2026 Midwest Mint Growers Conference Agenda February 26 – Four Winds Casino – South Bend, IN

All times are Eastern Standard Time

Thursday, February 26

- 8:00 am Meeting Registration
- 9:00 am Welcome – Mr. John Haferkamp, News Director WSBT/Friend of the Midwest Mint Industry
- 9:15 am Grain Market and Weather Update – Ryan Martin, Farmer Origination Specialist, Louis Dreyfus Company
- 9:45 am “An Economic Injury Level to Support Management Decisions for Asiatic Garden Beetle Larvae in Peppermint” – Dr. Elizabeth Long, Purdue University
- 10:15 am “Weather and Seasonal Forecasting” – Cari Peugeot, Chief Meteorologist WSBT 22
- 10:45 am Pesticide Regulations Update – Mark Evans, Purdue Extension (PARP credits for IN growers)
- 11:15 am 2024-2025 Mint Industry Buyers Report – Marcus Smith, Norwest Ingredients
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm “Adapting to Change: How Policy, Trends and Innovations are Reshaping Agriculture” – Katie Nelson, Executive Director, Public Policy, Indiana Farm Bureau
- 1:30 pm “Drone Technology: Past and Present Use” – Jesi Davenport, Ag and Natural Resources Educator, LaPorte County, IN
- 2:15 pm “Legacy Nutrient Deductions” – Dave Stamp, Midwest Region Referral Partner Manager, Boa Safra Ag, LLC
- 3:00 pm “Residue Management: How Mint Residue Decomposition Recharges your Soil” – Dr. Jennifer Moore, USDA-ARS Research Soil Scientist, and Carly Hartgrave, Oregon State University Master’s Student of Soil Science
- 3:30 pm Research and Regulatory Activities Report – Mr. Steve Salisbury, MIRC Research and Regulatory Coordinator, Salem, OR
- 4:15 pm Annual Business Meeting – Respective states
Richard Gumz – President, Wisconsin
Douglas Matthys – President, Indiana
Tom Irrer – President, Michigan
- 5:30 pm Social Hour – Sponsored by Norwest
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