



## A LETTER from the PRESIDENT

### One Month to Go – Let the Countdown Begin!

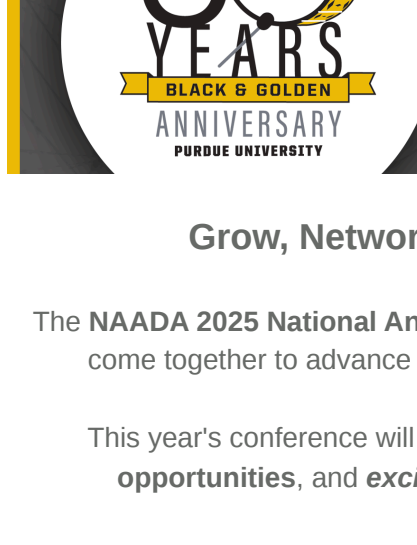
We're just one month away from our annual NAADA Conference, and I truly can't wait to see all of you and catch up on the amazing work you've done over the past year! The Purdue conference committee and your board of directors have done an outstanding job putting together an engaging program, and I hope you're getting excited for the educational sessions, industry tours, and countless opportunities to connect and network with colleagues.

If you're not able to join in person this year, please know that you'll be missed. But the good news is —our Outreach Education Committee is hard at work creating a fantastic lineup of virtual learning sessions launching this July! Whether you join one session or all of them, we hope these virtual opportunities provide value and keep you connected to the NAADA community. We're also continuing to expand and strengthen our [on-demand learning](#) resources. Be sure to check the website soon for newly added sessions and links to past recordings.

As we celebrate 50 years of NAADA, I've found myself reflecting on how much this organization has meant to me—professionally and personally. NAADA has offered me leadership opportunities, a powerful network of colleagues (and friends!) across the country, and a space to grow, learn, and try new things. I can say with confidence that NAADA has played a pivotal role in shaping who I am as a professional and I hope it will continue to do the same for all of you.

I look forward to celebrating our award winners, learning from your projects and publications, and most of all—reconnecting with each of you in person.

See you soon,



Paula Beecher, Clemson University  
2024-2025 President, NAADA

2025 NATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**EXPLORE  
THE POSSIBILITIES**

### Grow, Network and Celebrate at Our 50th Anniversary

The **NAADA 2025 National Annual Conference**, is where innovation, education, and collaboration come together to advance alumni and development efforts in agriculture and related fields.

This year's conference will feature *dynamic* educational sessions, *valuable* networking opportunities, and *exciting* outings that showcase Purdue's rich agricultural legacy.

**CAN'T MISS Conference Opportunities:**  
[Conference Tours](#)  
[Conference Agenda](#)

[Conference Education Sessions & Presenter Bios](#)  
[Hotel Reservations](#)

#### Keynote Speakers:

[Coach Matt Painter, Purdue Men's Basketball Head Coach](#)  
[Jay T. Akridge, Bickford Speaker](#)  
[Amy Jo Jones, The Growth Movement](#)

Whether you're a first-time attendee or a returning member, this is the perfect opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with industry leaders and peers. **First-time attendees**, make plans to join us on **June 3 at 1:00 pm CT** for an [Introduction & Seminar](#) - A NAADA Virtual Learning Series Must Do!

**Call for Your Favorite NAADA Photos**

Please gather and share your favorite photos spanning NAADA's 50 Years. We will be sharing these photos at the conference and on the website.

[NAADA Photo Folder](#)

### Don't Miss Your Opportunity to Become a NAADA Annual Conference Legend!

Gather your team  
and get ready for Spirit Night fun!

[Submit Your Karaoke Song Requests](#)

**Please [SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS](#)**  
by the **1st day of each month** for publication in Connections.

#### Development Track Virtual Social

**May 15 | 4:00 pm CT | [REGISTER \(LINK HERE\)](#)**  
Questions: Julie Conn | [jconn@ufl.edu](mailto:jconn@ufl.edu)

#### Alumni Track Meeting

**May 19 | 11:00 am CT | [REGISTER \(LINK HERE\)](#)**  
Questions: Amanda Brown Clougherty | [akbrown@umd.edu](mailto:akbrown@umd.edu)

#### National Conference First-Time Attendee Orientation

**June 3 | 1:00 pm CT | [REGISTER \(LINK HERE\)](#)**  
**Introduction & Seminar - A NAADA Virtual Learning Series Must Do!**

Find out about the Conference Newcomers Buddy System!  
Learn what to expect before, during and after the event.  
Ask travel questions, what to pack and what to wear!  
Explore the dynamic educational session choices and our presenters.

The NAADA Virtual Learning Events are available to all NAADA members.

[You can view recorded events here](#)

If you need assistance with your login credentials, please contact [memberservices@naada.org](mailto:memberservices@naada.org).

**Welcome to our Newest NAADA Members**  
*If you are a new member and not listed, please email [info@naada.org](mailto:info@naada.org).*

Marya Barlow, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Steph Buckley, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Hayley Conrad, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Jessica Dotson, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Bobby Gaffney, University of Kentucky  
Lyndall Harned, University of Kentucky  
Alex Hood, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Cindy Humphries, University of Georgia  
Austin Jennings, Purdue University College of Agriculture  
Laura Lawson, Rutgers University  
Anna Little, Purdue University College of Agriculture  
Maribeth Martin, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Chris Mitchell, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Casey Peeler, University of Florida IFAS and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
Samantha Pugh, Purdue University College of Agriculture  
Alejandro Sanchez, University of Florida IFAS and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
David White, University of Tennessee, Herbert College of Agriculture  
Aaron Wittbrodt, Michigan State University

Purdue University has a strong connection to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS), highlighted by its involvement in various engineering and racing initiatives at the famed track. The partnership between Purdue and IMS emphasizes the university's leadership in automotive and motorsports engineering, with students and faculty contributing to innovations that impact the racing industry. For instance, Purdue engineering students and researchers have collaborated with race teams and manufacturers to improve vehicle performance, safety, and efficiency in motorsports.

Purdue's presence at the Indianapolis 500, one of the world's most prestigious auto races, is also marked by the participation of the **Purdue All-American Marching Band**, which has performed during the race's opening ceremonies for decades. This blend of academic excellence, engineering prowess, and school spirit symbolizes Purdue's role in advancing automotive technologies and its unique connection to Indiana's motorsports heritage at the iconic Speedway.

Which award recognizes a faculty or staff member who has dedicated time and effort to advance a NAADA member institution?

A: Volunteer Service  
B: Above and Beyond Partner  
C: Founders Distinguished Service  
D: Front Line Award

[Submit Your Answer](#)

Congratulations to Kelly Delp, Maribeth Martin, Brian McGonigle and Lynn Wells who were the first NAADA members to submit the correct answer. The answer was B.  
*The Morrill Act was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on July 2, 1862.*

COUNTDOWN to NAADA 2025 National Annual Conference

33Days

14Hours

22Minutes

44Seconds

Powered by [Event Countdown Timer.com](#)

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