



Welcome to **Connections**, your monthly newsletter for the **latest NAADA news, member stories and important industry information.**



2026 NAADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 15-18 | University of Tennessee-Knoxville | Crowne Plaza Downtown University | Knoxville

As we look ahead to June, I want to personally encourage each of you to join us at the NAADA Annual Conference hosted by the University of Tennessee. Year after year, our members tell us that the greatest value of NAADA is the networking—those conversations, connections, and idea-sharing moments that spark new partnerships and elevate the work we do across the country. This conference is where relationships deepen, innovation grows, and where we build momentum together. I hope you'll make plans to be with us in Knoxville as we learn from one another and continue building the special NAADA community that moves our profession forward.



Paula Beecher, Clemson University | President, NAADA

REGISTER BEFORE MAY 4 and SAVE \$100 - with Early Bird Pricing!

EXPLORE  2026 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!



NAADA is gearing up for our 51st Annual Conference June 15–18, 2026, at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville, and sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more than 50 years, NAADA has supported professionals and volunteers who work to expand resources and advance agriculture and related disciplines through land-grant universities and partner programs. The annual conference brings together colleagues from across the country to share ideas, learn from one another, and strengthen alumni and development efforts in agriculture.

This year's conference will feature engaging educational sessions, networking opportunities, and special outings that highlight the University of Tennessee–Knoxville's strong agricultural heritage.

Sponsoring the conference is a great way to increase visibility among agricultural advancement professionals from across the nation.

If you're interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities, contact Tom Looney, Chair of the Sponsorship Committee, at tom.looney@tennessee.edu

[Learn More about Becoming a 2026 Annual Conference Sponsor](#)

[Sign Up to Become a 2026 Annual Conference Sponsor](#)



Congratulations to our 2026 Projects & Publications Competition Finalists!

First and second place awards will be announced throughout the 2026 NAADA Annual Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee. If you're attending in person, be sure to explore the submissions on display. Following along from afar? Keep an eye on NAADA's social media channels for category-by-category results!

[Click Here to See the Award Finalists](#)

Caitlin Conrad | 2026 NAADA Publications & Projects Competition Chair | conrad.256@osu.edu



NAADA Volunteer Advantage Program Series

Wednesdays, April 22 - May 13 | 11:30 am - 12:45 pm CT

NAADA Volunteer Advantage, is a 5-hour certificate program designed to provide foundational training on board expectations and commonly used governance documents. Participants will gain a better understanding of how boards operate while also building connections with fellow volunteers. The program will be led by experienced NAADA professionals and volunteers, and a certificate will be awarded upon completion. This opportunity is open to all board members at NAADA institutions, including alumni boards, development boards, advisory boards, committees, and student representatives.

All participants will take the **6 Types of Working Genius** assessment.
Series dates: April 22, April 29, May 6 & May 13
***This is a NAADA Virtual Certificate Program!**

Questions: Contact Mary Buschette | mbuschet@umn.edu
or, Renee Keese | renee.keese@yahoo.com

REGISTER by APRIL 10

National Conference First-Time Attendees Introduction & Seminar

Wednesday, May 27 | 2:00 pm CT

A NAADA Virtual Learning Series Must Do!
NAADA First-Timers to the NAADA National Annual Conference

Mini-Conference Orientation

What to expect!

NAADA Conference fun-filled overview
Conference newcomers Buddy System

What to do before the conference
NAADA website is filled with information

Travel logistics

NAADA 2026 National Conference Educational Sessions

What to pack & what to wear, which days

REGISTER NOW

WELCOME to our NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our Newest NAADA Members

If you are a new member and not listed, please email info@naada.org.

Jasmine Bryant, Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

Denise Caldwell, Purdue University College of Agriculture

Cathleen Drilling, University of Minnesota

Stephanie Mowery, Purdue University College of Agriculture

Ann Robinson, Iowa State University

Kayla Merrill, North Carolina State University

Tina Illar, Pennsylvania State University

Jaydon Kauffman, Purdue University College of Agriculture

Kelsie McFauls, Purdue University College of Agriculture

Christen Brunner, UC Davis - College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Emily Holmes, UC Davis - College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

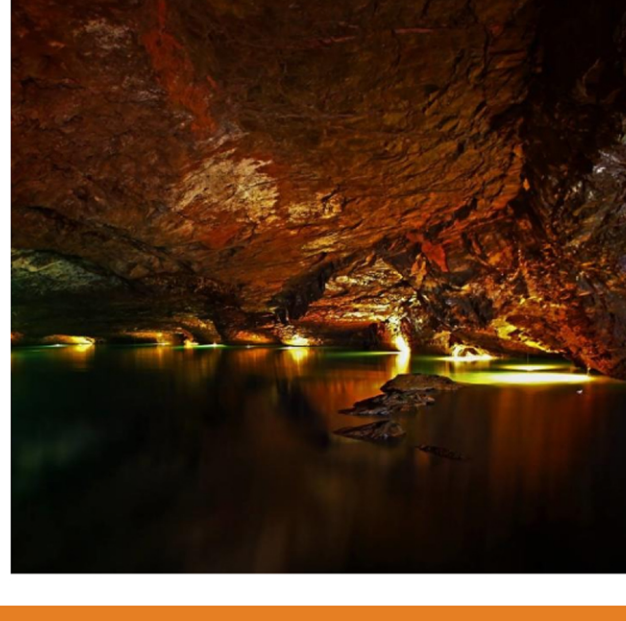
Peter Lino, UC Davis - College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

CLICK HERE to learn more about NAADA Membership Benefits!



NAADA 2026 Annual Conference | June 15-18 | Knoxville, Tennessee

University of Tennessee-Knoxville Fun Facts



Did You Know ?

Did you know that Tennessee is home to the country's largest underground lake? The Lost Sea is located in Sweetwater, Tennessee!

We are so excited to host NAADA 2026! Get ready for a fun, educational, unforgettable time at University of Tennessee-Knoxville!

Thank you to our 2026 National Annual Conference Host!



Thank you to these 2026 SILVER Sponsors | \$2500



Thank you to these 2026 BRONZE Sponsors | \$1500

