



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

REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

NAADA 2026 NATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 15-18 | University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Watch the website for updates!



NAADA Volunteer Advantage Program Series

Wednesdays, March 25 - April 22 | 11:30 am - 12:45 pm CT

CLICK HERE to Register by March 13

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: March 25, April 1, April 8 & April 22

***This is a NAADA Virtual Certificate Program!**

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

NAADA Volunteer Track

BB&S & Spring Update

Monday, March 30 | 11:00 am CT

CLICK HERE to Register

Join us for our annual
Volunteer Track BB&S & Spring Update,
along with an update from the NAADA Board of Directors.

Participants will:

Share challenges and best practices related to alumni engagement, alumni boards, and volunteer management at their alma maters and hear an update on the vision and direction of the Volunteer Track from NAADA board members and leaders.

Questions: Contact Elizabeth Galbreath | elizabethgalbreath17@gmail.com



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.

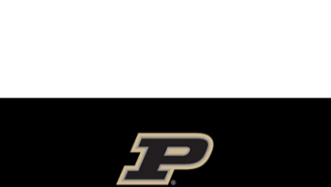
For more than 50 years, NAADA has supported professionals and volunteers who work to expand resources and advance agriculture and related disciplines through land-grant universities and partner programs. The annual conference brings together colleagues from across the country to share ideas, learn from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

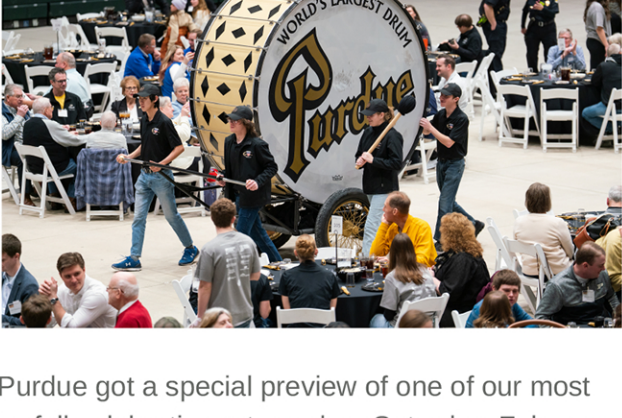
Thank you to these 2026 Annual Conference Sponsors!



Learn More about Becoming a 2026 Annual Conference Sponsor!



2026 Purdue Ag Alumni Fish Fry



Those who attended the 2025 Annual Conference at Purdue got a special preview of one of our most beloved traditions - the Purdue Ag Alumni Fish Fry. The full celebration returned on Saturday, February 7, 2026, in Lafayette, welcoming 1,100 alumni, students, and dignitaries for an afternoon of connection and celebration.

Guests enjoyed 90 minutes of networking in the exhibit area before sitting down to a delicious lunch featuring pork and fried fish. The program included recognition of eight Certificate of Distinction honorees and an engaging keynote speaker.

With the Big Ten scheduling a basketball game during our traditional closing time, we adjusted the agenda and kept the excitement going with a game watch party. Thanks to a generous donation from a local duck producer, attendees also enjoyed baked duck - served as appetizers and the Boilermakers beating Oregon - adding a unique and memorable twist to an already outstanding event.

Click HERE for more information and to view a gallery of the event.



Welcome to our Newest NAADA Members

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

Travis Burks, Texas A&M University

Max Esterhuizen, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Andrew Ickes, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Susan Sumner, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

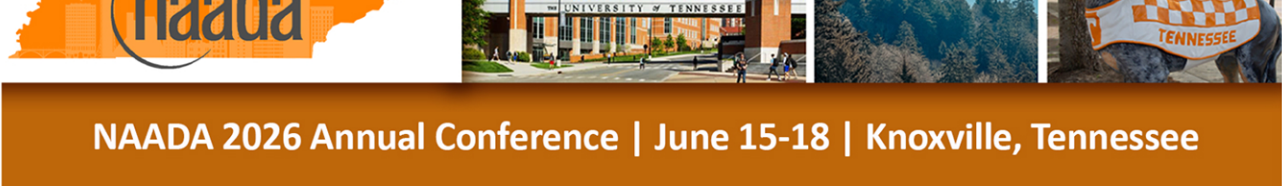
Chevon Thorpe, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Saskia Van De Gevel, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Deanna Sumners, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

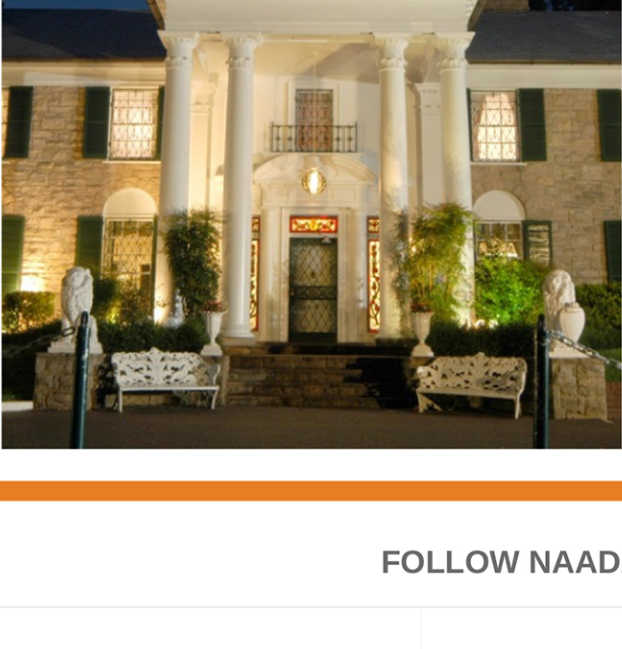
Tara Nepper, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

CLICK HERE to learn more about NAADA Membership Benefits!



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

University of Tennessee-Knoxville Fun Facts

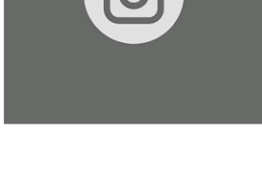


Did You Know ?

March Madness is a big deal, and so is Graceland. Home to Elvis Presley's mansion, Graceland, the second most-visited house in the country which is located in Tennessee!

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

FOLLOW NAADA on the SOCIALS!



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