



# 2026 AFGC Annual Meeting Agenda

## January 12-15, 2026—Asheville, NC

### *“Invigorating Grasslands: Where Art Meets Science”*

#### **January 12, 2026—Monday**

8:00am-11:00am	AFGC Board Meeting
12:00pm- 5:00pm	Registration Open
12:00pm- 5:00pm	Exhibitor Set Up, Silent Auction Set Up & Tuesday Poster Set Up
12:30pm- 2:00pm	AFGC Affiliate Leader Meeting
<b>12:30pm- 2:00pm</b>	<b>NIRS Board Meeting</b>
<b>3:00pm- 5:30pm</b>	<b><u>NIRS Workshop— An Introduction to Near Infrared Spectroscopy “Theory and Practice”</u></b>
	<b>Learning Objectives for this workshop is to provide a basic understanding of how NIRS works. To introduce participants to NIRS Consortium equations. To outline BMPs for obtaining optimal equation performance. To prove participants with a framework for selecting instrumentation.</b>
<b>2:55 pm</b>	<b>Welcome-Chris Teutsch, NIRSC President, UK</b>
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>NIRS theory...dispelling the “magic box” myth-Phil Ossowski, KPM</b>
<b>3:30 pm</b>	<b>NIRS Consortium calibrations and limitations of NIRS use-Bobbi Jo Husmoen</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>4:15 pm</b>	<b>BMPs for optimizing the use of NIRSC equations-David McIntosh, UT</b>
<b>4:45 pm</b>	<b>Selecting an instrumentation-Jenny Combs, UK Regulatory Services</b>
<b>5:15 pm</b>	<b>Meet the representatives for NIRS platforms supported by NIRS Consortium</b>
	<b>Blue Sun Scientific-Rachel Glenister</b>
	<b>Foss-Taylor Vesey</b>
	<b>KPM Analytics-Casey</b>
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Survey and Adjourn</b>
3:00pm- 5:00pm	Forage and Grassland Foundation Board Meeting
5:00pm- 9:00pm	Student Mixer
5:15pm- 6:00pm	AFGC Board Reception (invite only)
6:00pm- 7:00pm	AFGC Networking Reception (cash bar)

#### **January 13, 2026—Tuesday**

7:00am- 4:00pm	Registration Open
7:00am- 8:00am	Exhibits, Silent Auction, Photo Contest, Plant ID Contest, Hay Evaluation Contest
7:00am- 8:00am	Forage Bowl Plant ID Competition
7:00am- 8:00am	<b><i>Poster Presentations—AM Session</i></b>
1.	Better Bahia Starts with Establishment, Anna Grace McCarty
2.	N Timing for Late Summer Planted Oats, Brandon Yarberry
3.	Enhanced Ruminant Nutrition and Reduced Methane Emissions through Co-Ensiling Corn Silage and Spent Mushroom Substrate, Chika C. Anotaenwere
4.	Impact of Ensiling Johnsongrass on the Viability of Grass, Legume, and Forb Seed, Chris Teutsch
5.	Impact of Sorghum-Sudangrass Seeding Rate on the Yield, Nutritive Value, and Botanical Composition of a Warm-Season Annual Mixture, Chris Teutsch
6.	Seed Coating Effects on Establishment of Red and White Clover in Tall Fescue Pastures Under Uniform Seeding Rates, Cody Bowling and Shane Kornberg
7.	A first step towards adjusting planting date recommendations for warm-season annuals in Ohio, Emma Matcham



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8. Exploring bacterial inoculants for crabgrass production in Tennessee, Gustavo Henrique de Carvalho Costa
9. Characterization of modern alfalfa roots and shoots, Hannah L. Rusch
10. Establishment Success and Failure in a Crabgrass System, Harley Warren
11. Yield Potential of Late Winter Planted Oats, Jenna Martin
12. Red Clover Establishment in Kentucky: To sow in spring or fall?, Jonathan Stephens
13. Development of USDA-Yeti orchardgrass for increased winter hardiness, Joseph Robins
14. Influence of Light Competition During Native Warm-season Grass (NWSG) Establishment, Keagan Swilling
15. AOSCA maturity group rating protocol for cool-season perennial forage grasses, Kim Cassida
16. Intercropping Summer Annuals and Cover Crops to Maximize Forage Yield and Extending the Grazing Season, Lauren Jaschke
17. Phenotyping Alfalfa Germplasm for Persistence under Cold Environments, Miguel Angel Grijalba Sierra
18. Establishing Prairie Pollinator Species with Companion Crops as a Weed Suppression Strategy, Privillege Muleya
19. Using Brachiaria as a Pinpoint Forage Option in the Southern USA, Rocky Lemus
20. Tall Fescue Establishment Responses to Varying Annual Ryegrass Seeding Rates and Ploidy, Rush Fuller
21. Challenges of establishing cicer milk vetch in Westren Colorado, srinivasa Rao Pinnamaneni

8:00am- 8:45am

### Welcome and Opening

Welcome—AFGC President

Keynote— Twenty-five years of pasture-based meats at Hickory Nut Gap: History and Future, Jamie Ager

9:00am-10:30am

### Workshop— Drone Technology: Changing the Landscape for Herbicide Application and Forage Management

**Coordinated by Sam Ingram**

Join us for a dynamic symposium exploring the transformative role of drones in agriculture, with a special focus on innovative herbicide application techniques. Experts will also discuss broader uses of drone technology, including seeding, crop monitoring, precision mapping, and data-driven decision-making, highlighting the future of sustainable and efficient farming practices.



9:00am-11:45am

### Forage Bowl

Participating Teams:

10:30am-11:00am

AFGC Business Meeting

**11:00am-12:15pm**

### Lunch

12:30pm-4:00pm

### Forage Bowl

### **EMERGING SCIENTIST POSTER COMPETITION (3)**

*Sponsored by Corteva Agriscience*

1:00

1:15

1:30

12:30pm-2:00pm

### Workshop— Understanding Pastureland Ecology: Find Your Place in the Ecology of Your Pastures



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### Coordinated by Chris Teutsch and Matt Poore

Pastures are complex and fascinating managed ecosystems. Developing a deep understanding of ecosystem processes allows the manager to optimize animal and plant productivity while generating ecosystem services that contribute great benefits to society. This session will provide producers and agricultural professionals with a foundational understanding of these processes and management strategies that will help optimize system function.

### EMERGING SCIENTIST COMPETITION

12:30

12:45

1:00

1:15

1:30

1:45

*Sponsored by Corteva Agriscience*

2:00pm-3:00pm Break, Exhibits, Silent Auction, Photo, Plant ID, & Hay Evaluation Contest

2:00pm-3:00pm *Poster Presentations—PM Session* (Author's Present)

1. Cereal rye production in an integrated crop and livestock system, Adaline Rouse
2. Alfalfa: Queen of the Forages and its Role in Dairy Cattle Nutrition, Alyssa Neff
3. Integrated crop-livestock systems in Mississippi, Brett Rushing
4. Impact of Ensiling on the Isoflavone Concentrations in Red Clover, Chris Teutsch
5. Agronomic and nutritive value responses of cool-season forage mixtures under rotational stocking, Daniela Rodriguez
6. What is New in Southern Forages: The Forthcoming 6th Edition, Dennis Hancock
7. Effect of weed interference level on nutritive value of cool-season grass pastures in Alabama, Duncan McSorley
8. Using Forages as Deterrents to Reduce Deer Pressure in Cotton, Eric Billman
9. Forage Fiber Degradation and Passage Kinetics, Gonzalo Ferreira
10. Drone for Woody Perennial Control in Pastures, Jason Hartschuh
11. Effect of Planting Density and Harvest Heights on Dry Matter Yield, Forage Quality, and In Vitro Ruminant Digestibility of Corn and Sorghum Silages., Jennifer Giesey
12. Agronomic impact of interseeding red clover into intermediate wheatgrass in dual-use systems, Kathy Soder
13. Evaluation of animal performance in unfertilized and fertilized sabigrass pastures and in a silvopastoral system with a leguminous tree, Marcio Vieira da Cunha
14. Interactions of Black Grass Bug Control and RyzUp SmartGrass on Crested Wheatgrass Yields, Michael D. Rethwisch
15. Correct surfactant is key to smooth brome growth response to RyzUp SmartGrass application, Michael Rethwisch
16. Elevated Temperature and Precipitation Alter Isoflavones Concentration and Biomass Accumulation in Red Clover, Palash Mandal
17. Artifacts and Interpretations of In Situ Ruminant Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF) Degradation Kinetics of Forages, Prashant Ghimire
18. Effects of Early and Late Maturing Tetraploid Ryegrass Mixes on Forage Yield and Cattle Performance, Rush Fuller
19. Forage and crop production in Mississippi integrated crop-livestock systems, Russell Weathersby



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20. Integrated Crop Livestock Systems to improve nutrient use efficiency in the Southern Great Plains, Travis Witt
21. Ruminant metabolism of dairy cattle consuming alfalfa silage or corn silage-based diets., Yuma Glenn

### 3:15pm-5:15pm **FORAGE SPOKESPERSON COMPETITION**

3:30  
3:45  
4:00  
4:15  
4:30  
4:45  
5:00

*Sponsored by Tucker Family Farms*

### 5:30pm-6:00pm **NIRSC Membership Meeting**

## January 14, 2026—Wednesday

- 6:30am-7:00am Wednesday Poster Set-Up
- 7:00am-5:00pm Registration Open
- 7:00am-8:00am Exhibits, Silent Auction, Photo, Plant ID, & Hay Evaluation Contest
- 7:00am-8:00am **Poster Presentations —AM Session** (Author's Present)
1. Forage Nutritive Value and Mineral Concentrations of Common Pasture Forbs, Amanda Grev
  2. Increasing Soil Fertility in Pastures Through Bale Grazing, Brittany Hendrix
  3. EVALUATION OF MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR WINTER FEEDING AND GRAZING ON BEEF COW-CALF PRODUCTIVITY, Carter Phillips Maggie Justice
  4. Fecal degradation and nitrogen dynamics in soil from cattle supplemented with warm-season leguminous forbs, Chandler Kyle
  5. Environmental impacts of incorporating spent mushroom substrate into corn silage based diets on digestibility and greenhouse gas emissions in a simulated rumen system, Chika Anotaenwere
  6. The Effects of Sulfur Fertilizers on Forage Stockpiling, Daniel Lima
  7. Defoliation of Native Warm-Season Grasses in Establishment Year: Effects on regrowth and Stand Development, Eric Bisangwa
  8. Native Trees and Shrub Evaluation for Forage in Puerto Rico Silvopasture Systems, Francisco P. Rivera
  9. Increase forage quality and lifespan with proper soil calibration, Gabe Camp
  10. Impact of Prescribed Burns on Soil Health Indicators in Silvopasture based on Perennial Native Warm-Season Mixtures, Hannah Malcomson
  11. Shelf Life on Bahiagrass Stockpile, Harley Warren
  12. Lime and phosphorus interactions on soil phosphorus fertility, Harper Ritchey
  13. Effect of grazing management parasite prevalence in livestock, Jeff Semler
  14. Effects of Nitrogen Fertilizer Rate on Stockpiled Tall Fescue, Jenna Cain
  15. Stockpiling native warm-season grasses for the fall forage gap, Jonathan Omar Cole Kubesch, PhD
  16. Nitrogen and Sulfur Source Effect on Stockpiled Tall Fescue, Katie Payne
  17. Bale Grazing Effect on Forage Production, Katie Payne
  18. Forage production in a southeastern longleaf pine savanna, Lydia O'Halloran
  19. How do Microbial Biostimulants Impact Alfalfa Yield and Forage Quality, Micah R. Gartenberg
  20. Soil fertility relationship to yields of RyzUp SmartGrass treated smooth brome, Michael Rethwisch



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21. Survival of novel endophyte tall fescue varieties on horse farms: a case study, Ray Smith
22. On Farm Expectations of Annual Ryegrass in Arkansas, Sarah Stone
23. Impact of deficit irrigation on improved alfalfa cultivars, Sri Pinnamaneni
24. Impacts of P and K Fertilization Rates in a Deficient Soil on Alfalfa Nutrients and Value for Lactating Dairy Cows, Steve Norberg
25. Evaluating POLY4 as a potassium and sulfur source for alfalfa in Kentucky, William Fleming

8:00am -8:30am

Keynote— *Regenerative Agriculture: What's Our Destination?*

Moderator: Johnny Rogers

Panelists: Roger Gates, Kyle Mayberry, and Matt Poore

8:45am-10:15am

**Workshop— The Dirt on Soil Health: Are You Cashing In?**

**Coordinated by Alan Franzluebbers, Dan Glenn and Steve Woodruff**

This session will explore the underlying principles of soil health and how soil health can be managed on pastures. Indicators of soil health will be identified and explored. By actively managing for soil health, you may find that soil functions improve over time and you will benefit your broader community by strengthening ecosystem services. We'll also explore how soil health indicators can be used to manage nutrients more effectively and what consequences this has for your bottom line. Some experiences of using practical, adaptive management will be shared.

**Workshop— Understanding the role of NIR in forage quality**

**Coordinated by Lisa Baxter (representing SEHC) and Katie Payne (representing NIRSC)**

***Sponsored by Southeast Hay Contest & NIRS Consortium***

Near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) is a powerful tool widely used by producers and researchers across forage and livestock industries to predict forage nutritive value. This tool can provide rapid and effective measurements of forage nutritive value parameters and has been widely adopted in commercial, private, and research laboratories across the United States. Unfortunately, many people do not know how this technology works or how results are generated for their forage report that returns from the laboratory. The objective of this session is to briefly outline the fundamentals of NIRS that are most relevant to forage-livestock producers and applied scientists. First we will discuss how forage quality is determined from NIRS. This is a rapid but multi-step process in which light in the NIR range interacts with a forage sample to produce spectral characteristics. Next, we will detail how calibrations are created for the NIRSC. Calibrations are formulated by obtaining established reference values through wet chemistry on a sample group that cover the expected range of potential reference values for a given product. Finally, we will detail the role of NIRS in the Southeastern Hay Contest (SEHC) and for forage-livestock production. NIRS is a widely used tool by forage-livestock producers in the region and provides rapid and critically important information for producers making feeding decisions for their livestock. In addition, data collected from the SEHC provide unique insights to regional forage production trends across the region.

**1<sup>st</sup> Speaker—Philip Ossowski**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker—Bobbi Jo Anderson Husmoen**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Speaker—Katie Mason**

10:30am-12:00pm

**Workshop— Getting Started #1. Starting on your grazing journey**

**Coordinated by Johnny Rogers**

The casual observer might surmise that grazing systems are quite simple. Various types of livestock use grazing resources, and meat, milk and/or fiber are the result. It would seem that starting a grass-based enterprise should be easy. Those who have embarked on their “Grazing Journey” know there are many enterprise options that could lead to a successful outcome. Unfortunately, those options look very similar to choices that often may not work very well. Finding the best fit for your context is challenging. Highly successful grazing operations are unique and use a personalized set of practices to reach their goals. This



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session will offer examples of the opportunities that exist for graziers and how to determine which options might work best for you.

#### **Volunteer Oral Presentations**

- 9:45 Restoring Forage Systems: Lessons from Hurricane Helene, Bruno Pedreira
- 10:00 Four decades of breeding progress in perennial forages, Neal Tilhou
- 10:15 A Comparison between Perennial and Perennial/Annual Combination Forage Systems under Mixed-Species Grazing, Amanda Grev
- 10:30 Maximize Utilization of Native Warm Season Grasses: A 5-Year Grazing Review, JB Daniel
- 10:45 Seed carriers for seeding fluffy NWSG seed using non-specialized drills, Matt Booher
- 11:00 Northern Bobwhite and Grassland Birds in Native Warm-Season Grass Cattle Pasture, Doug Mitchell

12:00pm-1:00pm

1:00pm-1:30pm

1:30pm-3:00pm

#### **Luncheon**

#### **Awards Presentation**

#### **Workshop— Getting Started #2. Adding value to your herd with a local meat business**

##### **Coordinated by Lee Menius and Sarah Blacklin (NC Choices)**

Interest in local meats has grown exponentially in the past 20 years for both farmers and consumers. As more consumers seek out connections with local farms, there are opportunities to add value to your grazing operation by adding or expanding meat sales. In this session we'll explore how to get started in taking advantage of this market, from making a plan to launching an enterprise.

#### **Volunteer Oral Presentations**

- 1:30 Building Biosecurity Plans to Combat Invasive Weeds in Forage Systems, Lisa Baxter
- 1:45 Effect of nitrogen fertilization strategies on forage mass, nutritive value, and greenhouse gas emissions in a cool-season grazing system, Carlos C Vela Garci
- 2:00 Optimizing Nitrogen for Annuals: Balancing Yield, Weather, and Sustainability, Reagan Bustabad
- 2:15 Nitrogen Effects on Forage Utilization and Economic Returns in Grazing and Haying Systems, Emmanuel Barffour Oppong Adjei
- 2:30 Nutrient release and cycling impacts in overseeded bermudagrass pastures managed under contrasting overseeding strategies, Luana Zagato
- 2:45 N Rate and Source for Late Summer Oats, Shaun Rhoades

3:00pm-4:00pm

3:00pm-4:00pm

Break, Exhibits, Silent Auction, Photo, Plant ID, & Hay Evaluation Contest

#### ***Poster Presentations—PM Session***

1. Plant Tissue Minerals Analysis by NIRS: Calibration Model Development and Validation, Uttam Saha
2. The Rotation Equation: Grazing in Ohio and Missouri, Alexandre (Alex) Rehbinder
3. Beef and Bobwhites- Using cattle as a management tool to restore and establish native warm-season grasslands, Atley Elliott
4. Understanding the Value of Arkansas Hay; Insights from a producer survey, Bronc Finch; Ryan Loy
5. "Exactly the Conference I Needed": Planning, Promoting and Evaluating the Three Day 2024 Heart of America Conference, Caroline Roper
6. Engaging Livestock Producers at the Farm Level: Kentucky Hay Contests, Chris Teutsch
7. Inoculation of cereal rye baleage to improve fermentation, Christine Nieman
8. Succession Planning to combat rapid loss of farmland and urbanization, Christopher LeMaster
9. A 30-Year Retrospective of Baled Silage Research, Dennis Hancock



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10. Improved visual guides help new learners of grass morphology, Francis Corvin
11. Extension Equine Pasture Walks and Their Benefit, Amanda Barnum, Gigi Neal, Emma Matcham, Sara Mastellar, Janessa Hill, Christine Gelley, and Erika Lyon
12. Evaluating Hay Growth Rate at Different Cutting Heights, Jordan Penrose
13. Insights from the 2024 Arkansas Hay Verification Program, Kacie Gibbins
14. Forage Related Needs of Tennessee Small Ruminant Producers, Karlie Klingner
15. Structural responses of cool-season forage mixtures managed under contrasting harvest strategies, Liliane Silva
16. Enhancing forage-livestock operations sustainability and resilience against extreme weather conditions, Liliane Silva
17. Winter Feeding Strategies for Beef Cattle: Outcomes from a Field Day Series, Maggie Cotton
18. Enhancing Forage Management Education: Impacts of the Tennessee Master Forage Program, Malerie Fancher
19. Beyond South Florida, Extension Efforts to Bring Limpograss North, Mark Mauldin
20. Navigating Nutritional Challenges: Assessing Hay Quality After Delayed Harvests in Ohio, Ted Wiseman
21. Identifying bermudagrass contamination in hayfields, Will Fleming

3:00pm

Silent Auction Closes--*Collect items at AFGC registration desk by 4pm!*

4:00pm-5:30pm

### **Workshop— Solar Grazing**

**Coordinated by Andrew Weaver, and American Solar Grazing Association**

Almost a million acres of land currently reside under community- and utility-scale solar arrays with projections estimating that number may double. Prior to solar, land use may have varied from pasture or rangeland to row crop agriculture or timber production. Now in solar, much of this land has been converted to grassland systems that must be managed to facilitate efficient solar panel operation and maintenance. Incorporation of ruminant livestock (usually sheep) provides an opportunity for dual land use (agrivoltaics). This session will explore management of these forage systems, how livestock can be incorporated, and the benefits of agrivoltaics for livestock producers, landowners, and solar companies.

### **Workshop— Influencing Change. Socio-cultural aspects of technology adoption in the forage industry**

**Coordinated by John Fike**

Sometimes change can be hard and comes slowly. Even simple and heavily researched management adjustments like implementing fall/winter stockpiling have not been adopted broadly in the tall-fescue belt. At other times, adoption of a new product or practice comes rapidly. This session will consider what leads forage-based livestock producers to make or resist change, how psycho-social and cultural factors influence their decision making, and what role advisors can play in driving change and assisting producers in the change process.

5:30pm-6:30pm

“Hot Topics” Session

### Wednesday Poster Presentations:

### January 15, 2026—Thursday

7:30am-1:00pm

**Private Tour of Biltmore Farm and Hickory Nut Gap Farm (limited capacity of 50 attendees) lunch included (additional registration fee of \$25)**