



# Iowa Meat Processors Association

2026 PROCESSOR OPPORTUNITIES

**Membership** ➤ **Convention & Trade Show** ➤ **Cured Meats Competition**





## CONTACT IMPA

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## 2026 MEMBERSHIP

**For only \$125, your membership provides:**

- ✓ Discounted Convention registration
- ✓ A subscription to IMPA's newsletter
- ✓ Access to IMPA's Supplier Directory
- ✓ A "Find Your Local Provider" listing on the IMPA website
- ✓ Inclusion in the IMPA display at the Iowa State Fair
- ✓ Representation on the IMPA Board of Directors and opportunities to join IMPA committees

## 2026 CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

**February 12-14, 2026 | Gateway Hotel & Conference Center, Ames, IA**



The IMPA Annual Convention is focused on improving your meat processing knowledge, relationships, and profitability.

- ✓ Hands-on workshop activities
- ✓ Education on current topics
- ✓ Iowa's Cured Meat Championships
- ✓ Trade Show featuring 40+ industry vendors
- ✓ Industry celebrations
- ✓ Networking with Iowa's meat processors and key suppliers

## Registration

IMPA Members enjoy UNLIMITED attendees with their Processor/Operator registration. Non-member registrations include one attendee with the option to add additional attendees for \$50 each. Non-members and those who have yet to renew for 2026 may add a membership to their registration to take advantage of the member discount. **Register by Wednesday, January 21 to save \$35.**

### Registration Rates

	1 <sup>st</sup> Attendee from Your Business (Save \$35 when you register by January 21)	2 <sup>nd</sup> + Attendee from Your Business
<b>Member Registration</b>	\$135	Add unlimited attendees from your business for no extra cost
<b>Non-Member Registration</b>	\$135	\$50/person



**Register online at [bit.ly/IMPA26Conv](https://bit.ly/IMPA26Conv) and select a Processor/Operator ticket to begin.** You may complete your Membership purchase and Convention registration in one transaction. Membership-only requests can be made online at [bit.ly/IMPA26Memb](https://bit.ly/IMPA26Memb).



## Hotel Reservations

Rooms at the Gateway Hotel & Conference Center are offered at \$149 per night (+ tax). Book online at [bit.ly/IMPA26Hotel](http://bit.ly/IMPA26Hotel) or call 800-FOR-AMES (800-367-2637) and ask for a room in the Iowa Meat Processors Association room block. **Reservations must be made by Wednesday, January 21, 2026.**

## Schedule At-A-Glance

### Thursday, February 12, 2026

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM Presidential Welcome Reception

### Friday, February 13, 2026

8:45 AM – 1:00 PM Workshop at ISU Meat Lab (shuttle departs 8:00 AM)  
*Featuring hands-on production demonstrations for jerky and dry sausage (pepperoni, Genoa, etc.), lunch, and networking*

1:45 PM – 4:00 PM General Sessions & Networking

- *Pet Food – Jesse Smith, Heartland Provisions*
- *Lab Testing & HACCP Controls – Artemese Dolliole, We 'R' Food Safety*
- *SBA & USDA Meat Processing Industry Road Show*
- *Bull Session*

4:30 PM – 7:30 PM Trade Show Ribbon Cutting & Reception

7:30 PM – 11:00 PM *\*Dinner & Entertainment*  
*Dinner buffet followed by casino games including craps, roulette, Texas hold'em, three card poker, blackjack, and money wheel; kids' space/activities will be provided*

### Saturday, February 14, 2026

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Cured Meats Competition Check-in

7:30 AM – 10:00 AM *\*Blue-Ribbon Breakfast*

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM Presentation: *Sanitation – Tim Johnson, Ozo Kleen*

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Trade Show

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM Presentation: *Remote Carcass Grading, LSAS Accounts & Labels – Nelson Gaydos, AAMP*

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM *\*Lunch Available in Trade Show – Grab-and-Go Hot Beef Sundaes*

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Trade Show Prize Drawings

2:15 PM – 3:30 PM General Sessions & Annual Business Meeting

- *Future Livestock Markes & Trends – Dr. Chad Hart Iowa State University Department of Economics*
- *AAMP Updates – Nelson Gaydos, Outreach Specialist, AAMP*
- *IMPA Annual Business Meeting*

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Evening Reception

6:30 PM *\*Awards Banquet Featuring Prime Rib Prepared by the ISU Meat Lab*

## Receptions & \*Meal Tickets

Connect with other attendees and suppliers, build new relationships, and join in the celebration!

### Presidential Welcome Reception | Included

**Thursday, 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

*Meet IMPA leaders and greet convention attendees over drinks and snacks.*

### Friday Dinner & Entertainment | \$30

**Friday, 7:30 PM**

*Immediately following Trade Show hours, join attendees for this dinner buffet followed by casino games including craps, roulette, Texas hold'em, three card poker, blackjack, and money wheel. Your dinner ticket includes a set of playing chips to get you started at the gaming tables; chips have no cash value, but earn you entries into prize raffles.*

### Saturday Blue-Ribbon Breakfast | \$20

**Saturday, 7:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

*Kick-start your day with a breakfast buffet featuring the 2025 Grand Champion Bacon and Grand Champion Smoked Sausage, both from Marks Locker in Rowley.*

### Saturday Lunch | \$20

**Saturday, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

*Grab-and-Go Hot Beef Sundaes will be served in the Trade Show area. Enjoy your lunch while networking with processors and suppliers.*

### Saturday Evening Awards Banquet | \$45

**Saturday, 6:30 PM**

*Enjoy a delicious meal featuring prime rib prepared by the Iowa State University Meat Lab and celebrate the Cured Meat Competition winners.*



## Friday Workshop at ISU Meat Lab

Included in your Convention registration, Friday's workshop will be hosted at the Iowa State Meat Laboratory and feature hands-on production demonstrations for jerky and dry sausage (pepperoni, Genoa, etc.), lunch, and networking. It is recommended that participants wear warm clothes and comfortable shoes as these concepts will be taught in the ISU Meat Lab's USDA Inspected processing areas.

This year's program is once again supported by generous funding from the Iowa Beef Council and the Iowa Pork Producers Association.



## Cured Meats Competition

The 2026 Cured Meats Competition will take place on Saturday of the Convention. Competitors receive valuable feedback on their products from meat scientists and specialists in the meat industry, and winning businesses take home plaques to help market their accomplishments. **All products will be registered on site using the AAMP system for \$20 each.**

Convention registration and IMPA membership are required to compete. Competition rules and product registration form are posted on the Convention registration website.

## Item/Package Donations

This year, instead of silent auction donations, IMPA is seeking donations of items and packages to be used as prizes for the Casino Night activity planned for Friday's entertainment and for drawings in the Trade Show. Donations may be brought directly to the event, or shipped to a committee member at your convenience for transportation to the venue.