Updated 4/7/2026

SYMPOSIA LIST BY DAY

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026 – ALL DAY

ASAS-NANP Symposium: Mathematical Modeling Nutrition – *Sponsored by National Animal Nutrition Program*

- Dr. Bill Wisotsky, SAS – Quantum computing applied to animal nutrition and agriculture: Emerging opportunities and practical perspectives.
- Dr. Haipeng Yu, University of Florida – Leveraging AI-derived digital phenotypes for precision monitoring of dairy cattle production, health, and behavior.
- Dr. Ziteng Xu, Texas A&M University – Unlock computer vision with AI: Low-code solutions for real-world precision livestock farming tasks.
- Dr. Joao R. R. Dorea, University of Wisconsin, Madison – Fine-tuning embedding models for RAG and text analysis in agricultural applications.
- Reid Hensen, Celium Group – Applications of Optimization in AI Frameworks to Animal Science Modeling.

Genomics for Animal Sciences Summer Workshop – *Sponsored by NRSP8-RNC and NIFA-AFRI*
Join us for a one-day event that brings together students, researchers, and industry professionals across the animal sciences. Whether you are new to genomics or working at the cutting edge, this workshop offers training and discussion opportunities for all experience levels, from foundational concepts to advanced functional and quantitative applications. Participants will be able to choose among three learning tracks tailored to their background and interests: an introductory track covering core genetics and genomics concepts, an advanced functional genomics track focused on biological interpretation and multi-omics approaches, and an advanced quantitative genomics track addressing complex traits, genomic prediction, and breeding applications. The program also includes networking opportunities and a collaborative roundtable discussion to connect ideas across disciplines. This one-day workshop is designed to be engaging and interactive—a full day of learning, collaboration, and fun with colleagues from across academia and industry.

Track 1: Introductory Genetics/Genomics (Foundations)

- Dr. Fiona McCarthy, The University of Arizona
- Dr. Yanghua “Sunny” He, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Dr. Wellison Diniz, Auburn University

Track 2: Advanced Functional Genomics

- Dr. James Koltes, Iowa State University
- Dr. Byeonghwi Lim, Iowa State University

Track 3: Advanced Quantitative Genomics (GWAS and Genomic Prediction)

- Dr. Nanye Long, Michigan State University
- Dr. Molly McCue, University of Minnesota
- Dr. Wen Huang, Michigan State University

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026 – MORNING

Genetics Symposium

- Dr. Ronnie Green, University of Nebraska-Lincoln – What has the past 45 years told me about the future of animal breeding and genetics?
- Nicolò Macciotta, University of Sassari, Italy – Inter and trans generational effects for inferring epigenetic inheritance: present knowledge and perspectives.
- Dr. Haja Kadarmideen, Aarhus University, Denmark – Advancing in vitro embryo and calf production with the power of multiomics and systems biology.
- Dr. Wen Huang, Michigan State University – Swine genetics in the era of complete genomes and pangenomes.
- Dr. Brenda Murdoch, University of Idaho – Genetic resources for improved functional insights and prediction of relevant traits in livestock.

Ruminant Nutrition Symposium: Considerations for Replacement Females

- Dr. Philipe Moriel, University of Florida – Nutritional strategies and metabolic imprinting for Bos indicus influenced heifers.
- Dr. Andreas Foskolos, University of Thessaly, Greece – Nutritional strategies for improving nitrogen use efficiency in dairy replacement heifers.
- Dr. Carl Dahlen, North Dakota State University – TBD
- Dr. David Kenny, TAEGASC – Basic and applied research on the effect of early life nutrition in ewes, heifers and bulls.

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026 – AFTERNOON

CSAS Symposium 1: Early Career Researchers – *Sponsored by the Canadian Society of Animal Science*

This symposium will highlight innovative approaches to improving efficiency and sustainability across livestock systems through the work of early career researchers in animal science. Presentations will span ruminant and nonruminant nutrition, forage and grazing management, and microbiological and metabolomic tools that advance understanding of livestock productivity. By featuring emerging research across areas such as ruminants, nonruminants, forages, and microbiology, the session will showcase current findings and future directions while emphasizing the growing role of early career scientists in driving progress and innovation within the field.

Beef and Dairy Symposium: New concepts to mitigate stress and optimize productivity in beef and dairy systems – *Sponsored by FERA Diagonostics*

- Dr. Thomas Smith, Finger Lakes Farm Vets and FERA Diagnostics and Biologicals – The Effects of Stress in Dairy Cattle and The Role of Maternal Bovine Appeasing Substance
- Dr. José E.P. Santos, University of Florida – Research-based solutions to minimize stress and improve production efficiency in dairy operations.
- Dr. Tom Noffsinger, Production Animal Consultant – Importance and adoption of research-based technologies to address stress and improve welfare/health and productivity in commercial beef systems.
- Dr. Reinaldo Cooke, Texas A&M University – Research-based solutions to minimize stress and improve production efficiency in beef operations.
- Dr. Rodrigo Bicalho, FERA Diagonostics

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026 – ALL DAY

Microbial Solutions Symposium: Recent Developments in Microbial Solutions for Beef and Dairy Cattle Nutrition - *Sponsored by Novonesis*

- Dr. Todd Callaway, University of Georgia – Overview of probiotics in cattle nutrition.
- Dr. Philipe Moriel, University of Florida – Bacillus-based direct-fed microbial supplementation in cow-calf systems.
- Dr. Rodrigo Marques, Virginia Tech University – Probiotics in stocker and backgrounding systems.
- Dr. Zachary Smith, South Dakota State University – Probiotics in feedlot systems.
- Dr. Reinaldo Cooke, Texas A&M University – Probiotics as immunomodulator in beef cattle exposed to stress challenges.
- Dr. José E. P. Santos, University of Florida – Probiotics to transition and lactating dairy cows.
- Dr. Luis Ferrareto, University of Wisconsin – Probiotics to improve fiber digestion in dairy cows.

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026 – MORNING

Companion Animal Symposium 1: Drivers of Food Choice Preference

As the pet food industry continues along its steep trajectory of growth, with new brands emerging every year and new products lining already crowded store shelves, understanding what exactly makes diet or treat attractive or desirable to both the purchasing customers (pet parents) and end-point consumers (pets) is as critical as ever. The objective of this symposium is to serve as a platform for the dissemination and discussion of current research findings in fields related to food choice preference, potentially including but not limited to: palatability,

sensory acuity, genetic/breed/species predisposition, feeding/purchasing behavior(s), and marketing claims/language.

- Dr. Nancy E. Rawson, Monell Chemical Sense Center – The role of genetics and environment in the determination of sensory preferences.
- Dr. Alexander James German University of Liverpool – Palatability and obesity: How do we strike a balance?
- Nathan J. Hall, Texas Tech University – Olfactory drivers of food preference: Adapting sensory analysis for dogs.
- Dr. Kadri Koppel, Mars Petcare – What we (think we) understand about palatability testing and where we go from here?

CSAS Symposium 2: Advancements in Sustainable Ruminant Livestock Systems in North America – *Sponsored by the Canadian Society of Animal Science*
This symposium explores advancements in sustainable ruminant livestock systems across North America, beginning with an overview of ecosystem services provided by ruminant production and how they are evolving. It then examines environmental impacts, including emissions and nutrient management, along with emerging technological innovations. The session highlights the role of animal welfare in sustainable systems, followed by an analysis of socioeconomic drivers affecting consumer demand, producer livelihoods, and financing of new technologies. A capstone systems-level talk integrates these themes, identifying opportunities and barriers for more sustainable ruminant production. The symposium concludes with a panel discussion with all speakers.

Feed Management Symposium – *Sponsored by National Animal Nutrition Program*
Beef Session

- Dr. Matthew Beck, Texas A&M University – Increasing Awareness and Use of Livestock Feed Management Through The National Animal Nutrition Program (NANP).
- Dr. Jacquelyn Prestegaard, Texas A&M University
- Dr. Bryan W. Neville, USDA-ARS, Meat Animal Research Center

Dairy Session

- Mary Beth Hall, The Cows Are Always Right – Increasing Awareness and Use of Livestock Feed Management Through The National Animal Nutrition Program (NANP).
- Dr. Elizabeth French, USDA-ARS
- Dr. Victor Cabrera, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Nonruminant Session

- Dr. Gerald C. Shurson, University of Minnesota –Strategies to Improve Nutrient Utilization Efficiency in Swine Production Systems.
- Dr. Pedro Urriola, University of Minnesota
- Dr. Steven Moeller, The Ohio State University
- Dr. Brian Kerr, USDA-ARS
- Lara Moody, AFIA, IFEEDER

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026 – AFTERNOON

Physiology and Endocrinology Symposium: Insights into Programming of Postnatal Development and Performance

- Dr. Amy Desaulniers, University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Lactocrine programming of neonatal testis development: Evidence from swine.
- Dr. Sarah McCoski, Montana State University – Programming production: Can maternal nutrition enhance offspring reproductive capacity?
- Dr. Shelby Rosasco, University of Wyoming – Postnatal nutritional programming of ovarian reserve in beef heifers.
- Dr. David Kenny, Teagasc – Effects of early life nutrition on development and age at puberty.

Nonruminant Nutrition and Swine Species Joint Symposium: Big Data and the Implications and Benefits to Precision Feeding

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026 – MORNING

Beef Species Symposium: Energetics

Changes in the cattle industry and advancements in technology have opened the door for new research opportunities on beef cattle energetics. The GreenFeed system has been used in research for over a decade now. More recently, researchers have investigated the ability to use this technology to conduct energetic research with cattle in their production environment. Finally, the Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle committee has called for many years for improvements in equations to account for the energy requirements needed for grazing activity. Utilizing the GreenFeed technology to assess heat production of cattle on pasture may be a promising avenue to accomplish this goal. The overall objective of this symposium is to provide an update on the latest advancements in the energetic research of beef cattle.

- Dr. Kristen Hales, Texas Tech University – Advances and future research directions for energetic research of beef cattle.
- Dr. Stacey Gunter, USDA-ARS – Using respiratory gas fluxes to access the energy intake and utilization by grazing and group fed cattle.
- Dr. Alfredo DiConstanzo, University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Energetics and energetic efficiency of beef cows.
- Dr. Gordon Carstens, Texas A&M University – Beyond RFI: Optimizing energetic efficiency in grazing cattle.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026 – AFTERNOON

Companion Animal Symposium 2: Rigor and Reproducibility in Nutrition Research
Across the nutrition sciences, concerns about rigor and reproducibility have taken center stage. This symposium will examine the current state of rigor and reproducibility in nutrition research, highlight practical strategies and tools to improve transparency, and discuss how these practices can be applied in companion animal studies.

- Dr. David Allison, Baylor College of Medicine – The need for rigor, reproducibility, transparency, and trustworthiness in nutrition research.
- Dr. Janice O'Brien, Virginia Tech – Exposure variables in nutritional epidemiology: are they telling us what we think they are?
- Dr. Jan S. Suchodolski, Texas A&M University – Microbiome Analysis as a tool to investigate gut health: Methodological considerations.
- Dr. Guilherme J. M. Rosa, University of Wisconsin-Madison – Embracing biological variability: A path to reproducible animal science.

Advances in Growth, Development and Meat Science Symposium: Technology-Driven Strategies for Precision Growth and Meat Quality – *Sponsored by the Rodney L. Preston Appreciation Club*

- Dr. Min Du, Washington State University – Vitamin A–Mediated developmental programming of muscle and marbling fat in beef cattle.
- Dr. Jorge Sandoval, Auburn University – The role of satellite cells in woody breast development and meat quality in broilers.
- Dr. Christian Ramirez, University of Minnesota – Beyond Growth: AI-Based adaptive protein concept for comprehensive animal development.

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2026 – MORNING

Animal Health and Contemporary Issues Joint Symposium: Precision Livestock Solutions: Health Optimization and Early Disease Detection

- Dr. Uma Aryal, Oklahoma State University – Proteomic signatures of health and aging.
- Dr. Chris Puls, United Animal Health – Accuracy, reliability, and value of new swine digital technologies.
- Dr. Kolapo M. Ajuwon, Purdue University – Dietary gestational and lactational supplementation of live yeast to sows regulates immune markers and gut development in piglets.
- Rafael Ferreira, University of Wisconsin-Madison – Multi-modal machine learning for the early detection of subclinical ketosis in dairy cattle.