

National Agricultural Communications Symposium

In conjunction with the annual meeting of the

Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists

Jan. 29 - Feb. 3, 2026 (SAAS) | Feb. 1 - 2, 2026 (NACS)

Louisville, Kentucky

2026 Call for Professional Development Sessions

Deadline: October 17, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time)

The National Agricultural Communications Symposium (NACS) will meet Feb. 1-2, 2026, in Louisville, Kentucky. The full SAAS conference meets January 29-February 3, 2026.

This call is open to anyone interested in sharing agricultural communications professional development. We are seeking original proposals on new and innovative ideas that are relevant to our work as agricultural communicators.

***New Format:**

- Roundtable discussions should be submitted to the new “*Idea Incubator*” category, which now has a separate call for submissions.
- The presentation times for PDs are now 30 minutes.

Important Updates:

1. Professional development proposals will be **submitted through an online Qualtrics form**. Authors will receive confirmation of their submission via email.
2. Proposals should be submitted as a **PDF**.

PRESENTATION FORMAT

NACS is a **fully in-person conference**. Authors should plan to present their professional development sessions in-person if accepted.

Professional Development proposals are “how-to” pieces that inform/instruct participants on processes or programs related to agricultural communications research, teaching, and/or practice.

Topic Examples:

In a 2023 survey of NACS attendees, most respondents indicated they wanted PD opportunities related to research. For this reason, priority will be given to submissions focused on research skills; however, all submissions are still invited. We hope to offer at least one PD session focused on teaching or practice. Some suggested topics include but are not limited to:

- Grant writing
- Applied research methods

- Developing research studies or programs
- Skill development, such as writing, photography, graphic design or technology
- Innovative teaching strategies
- Advising and mentoring strategies
- Applications of technology
- Media relations
- Event and/or program planning and management
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion training

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

You will complete the Qualtrics form and upload a PDF of your proposal using the submission link provided in this call. Proposals should be submitted as a **3-page PDF..** Requirements of your submission are detailed below.

The final submitted document (3-page PDF file) should consist of the following items:

- Two pages, single-spaced PD proposal, including tables, figures and images
- One page for references (if applicable)

Formatting Requirements:

- Remove and/or mask all identifying author information.
- The table functions command in Microsoft Word **must be used** for all tables.
- 12-point Times Roman or Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins (all sides).
- Do not use headers, footers, footnotes.
- Use APA 7th edition in all situations (citations in-text body and reference list, statistical symbols, and table and figure titles).

The submission form will ask you to include contact information as well as presentation time preference. The requirements of your proposal are detailed below.

RECOMMENDED SECTIONS FOR PD PROPOSALS

- **PD Title**
- **PD Overview/Purpose**
- **Relevance of PD to NACS attendees**
 - How does this PD benefit NACS attendees? Is this intended for novice, intermediate, or advanced learners for this topic?
- **Learning Outcomes**
 - What will participants be learning?
- **Outline of PD Activities**
 - Please include a basic outline of your session and clearly indicate if it is a **15-minute PD** presentation or **30-minute PD** presentation
 - For the PD Presentation format, you can present your outline in whatever format works best for you.
 - The NACS [Professional Development template](#) is also available for use.
- **References (if applicable; 1 page max)**

SESSION FORMAT

This is a formal presentation format with access to a computer and projector. Sessions will be 30 minutes in length. Interactive presentations are encouraged.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

Submit professional development via the following Qualtrics form: [NACS Professional Development Submission Link \[CLICK HERE\]](#)

Proposals should be formatted and submitted as a PDF. All proposals should be submitted using the link above. Submitting authors will be asked to provide the following information:

- Contact information
- Proposal

You will receive email confirmation that your proposal has been received. Professional development submissions will be reviewed by the NACS officer team for appropriateness of topic(s), relevance of topic(s) to the profession, and fit for the meeting. At least one of the authors presenting the PD must be registered for NACS or another section at the SAAS meeting.

The lead presenter of the selected sessions will be notified by **early December 2025**. The presenter(s) will be expected to provide materials used during the session(s) for inclusion on the NACS website, as appropriate and available.

Session times will be announced when the section program is finalized. A laptop computer and projector will be provided for Professional Development Presentations.

If you have questions, please email **Dr. Audrey King** at audrey.king@okstate.edu.

For more information about the NACS meeting, please visit <https://www.nacsweb.org/>.