

WELCOME

AFA LEADERS CONFERENCE

PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2026

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Event Website:

<https://www.agfuture.org/experiences/leaders-conference/industry-engagement>



IMPORTANT DATES

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Below you will find dates to keep in mind as we approach Conference. These dates will (a) help remind you when to send our team important information and (b) give you a heads up when to expect important information to come from AFA.

27 **REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE**
July
You should have received an individualized link for your organization to register. If you can not locate that link please reach out to lillian.chapman@agfuture.org.

2 **REGISTRATION DUE**
October
Only one registration is needed for your organization and all changes must be made before Oct. 2. (Please note if you have an AFA Board of Director on your team they will be registered separately)

12 **PARTNER SOCIAL INFORMATION**
October
AFA will send you a Partner Assessment to fill out to collect information on the type of student you'd like to attend your Partner Social. This assessment takes 10-15 minutes and you have until Oct. 18 to complete.

18 **PARTNER SOCIAL INFORMATION DUE**
October
Complete your Partner Assessment (10-15 minutes) and submit your selection of previous interns you'd like to attend your Partner Social.



IMPORTANT DATES

IMPORTANT DATES

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October

FINAL COMMUNICATION FROM AFA & OPPORTUNITY FAIR ORDER DUE

- AFA will send your team a final communication listing information around final schedule for your team and information on how to access the Resume Directory.
 - If participating in the Opportunity Fair, you must submit your Fern application through their website. The application will be sent out on or before Sept. 5.
-

30

October

SHIPMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED FOR OPPORTUNITY FAIR

If participating in the Opportunity Fair, your booth boxes must be delivered to the Fern warehouse by this date. Do not deliver your boxes to the hotel. More information on shipping can be found on your portal on the Fern website.

4

November

SWAG DUE FOR DELEGATE BAGS

As a partner benefit you are invited to add items to the delegate swag bag that each student receives. These 925 items must be delivered to the AFA Office – 11500 NW Ambassador Drive, Suite 306, Kansas City, Missouri 64153 between Oct.1-Nov. 4.

12

November

AFA LEADERS CONFERENCE, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI NOVEMBER 12-13

Your team can find their individual schedules in the Conference app. Information will be sent out on how to gain access on Oct. 30.

16

November

CONFERENCE SURVEY

Your team will be emailed a survey asking for feedback on your experience. AFA is able to improve AFA Leaders Conference each year because of honest feedback from its audiences.



CANCELLATION POLICY

As an engagement and funding partner of AFA, we value your support. Since 1996, partners have invested their dollars in our nonprofit programming to help guide the next generation of agriculture and food leaders. Because we are committed to being good stewards of those dollars, we are implementing a new cancellation policy for 2026 AFA Leaders Conference to help direct that funding toward growing the number of students we serve each year.

Our goal for this policy is to work with our partners in establishing deadlines when confirming/making changes regarding your teams' engagement. With the rise of costs associated with in the hospitality industry (AV, caterings, lodging, etc.) this policy will help mitigate the financial risks AFA is liable for regarding cancellations that fall outside the calendar parameters set by third party vendors.

As one of our main contacts for partnership, please help us in making sure this policy is communicated to your team members planning to attend Leaders Conference in November.

Adjustments or cancellations to your registration must be made through lillian.chapman@agfuture.org by Oct. 10.

October 2:

- Deadline to register/confirm participation at 2025 AFA Leaders Conference – this includes speaker roles.

October 10:

- Meals: Last day to cancel team member and receive reimbursement on any meals purchased outside of the complimentary meals provided through the partnership. If a team member cancels after this date, partner will be liable for cost of the meal already purchased.
- Speakers: Last day to cancel team member and replace with another teammate. If a team member is unable to participate in the program following this date - no other team member from your company will be able to participate/replace that individual unless specified by an AFA team member.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lillian Chapman at lillian.chapman@agfuture.org.



AGENDA

Below you will find areas of engagement your team is invited to participate in. Reminder, your team must be registered for Conference by October 2nd. You have until Oct. 10 to make any changes (additions or subtractions) to your registration by sending an email to lillian.chapman@agfuture.org.

Each team member can access their individual schedule for Conference using the app on Nov 4.

Please use the form below to keep track of which team members are registered for each activity.

PRE-CONFERENCE

Swag Items

As a partner benefit you are invited to add items to the delegate swag bag that each student receives. These 925 items must be delivered to the AFA Office –

**11500 NW Ambassador Drive,
Suite 306,
Kansas City, Missouri 64153**

between Oct.1 - Nov. 4.

Please ensure swag items are no larger or heavier than a standard water bottle. We also encourage sending snacks to be included in the swag bags.

Delegate Essay Review

First come, first serve programmatic opportunities: If one of your team members is interested in reviewing essays for the delegate selection process, please let fill out the following volunteer sign-up or let us know by email.

[Sign-Up Link for Essay Review](#)

Delegate Resume Review

First come, first serve programmatic opportunities: If one of your team members is interested in reviewing resumes for the delegates we will send out further instructions with confirmation in October.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Attire: Business Casual/Logo Apparel

4:00-9:00 PM

Conference Check-in Sheraton hotel lobby

Come grab your badge and resources for the conference. We will have AFA staff available to answer on-site questions.

7:30-8:30 PM

(Private) Partner Socials

Your team will be provided a private space to engage with a group of students at Conference. Your role at this social is to host this group and provide them more information on your organization. Light refreshments will be available.

More information on (a) who will be attending your partner social (b) and what they hope to learn from your team will be provided to you on Oct. 24 in your final communication from AFA.

7:30-8:30 PM

Opportunity Fair Set Up

Additional time will be provided on Friday morning from 7:30-9:30AM. Things to remember as you are preparing for the opportunity fair:

- Only one person from your team needs to register for the 10x10 booth space itself
- FERN is our on-site vendor, but AFA staff is happy to help answer questions.

8:30-10:00 PM

Friday Board of Directors and Alumni Alliance Reception

AFA alumni who are a part of your team are invited to attend this social with AFA Board of Directors, NAAAC members, and other AFA special guests.



AGENDA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Attire: Business Professional/Logo Apparel

7:00-9:00 AM

Agricultural Business Council Of Kansas City Breakfast

Anyone who would like to join must register through the AgBizKC link and pay separately.

7:30-9:30 AM

Opportunity Fair Set Up

7:30-9:30 AM

Coffee & Cakes with Alumni and Friends

Hosted by NAAAC -Optional

Are you an alumnus of AFA? Stop by during Opportunity Fair setup for a sweet treat and some hot joe to-go!

9:30 AM -3:00 PM

Opportunity Fair

Your team will receive a standard 10x10 booth space that includes a table, two chairs and a trashcan. The exhibit hall will be carpeted and your space will be draped. All exhibit needs and additional items can be ordered through FERN. More information will be sent out on or before Sept. 5. Students will attend by track, so you will know which year (Freshman etc.) will be through at certain times of day.

12:00-1:00 PM

Opportunity Fair Lunch

Your team will receive two complimentary tickets to the Opportunity Fair Lunch. Additional lunch only tickets may be purchased for an additional cost of \$85/ticket. The Opportunity Fair will close during this time, so you will have a student free break if you choose - or we will have tables available in the student section as well.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Attire: Business Professional/Logo Apparel

12:00-1:30 PM

AFA Board of Directors Luncheon

Your team member participating in the Executive Forum is invited to participate in the Board Luncheon. Due to room restrictions this is invite only and you will not be able to register your team for this luncheon. Please note this time for your attendee of Executive Forum. This session will appear on their final communications.

2:30-4:45 PM

Executive Forum on Stewarding Change

(1) one team member is invited to participate in this speaking opportunity and the AFA Board of Directors Luncheon. More information can be found on the industry landing page.

3:30-4:45 PM

Transition to Work Roundtable

(1) one team member is invited to participate. More information can be found on the industry landing page.

3:30-4:45 PM

Solutions You Care About Roundtable

(1) one team member is invited to participate. More information can be found on the industry landing page.



AGENDA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Attire: Business Professional/Logo Apparel

3:00-5:00 PM

Industry and Collegiate Professional Social

All team members are invited to participate in this experience engaging both industry and collegiate professionals. Take a break and join us for a casual, networking social over cocktails (not mocktails) and snacks.

5:00-5:45 Bridge Builder Mocktail Socials (Tracks 3 & 4)

Join approximately 100+ Tracks 3 & 4 (Juniors and Seniors) Members for an informal networking opportunity.

6:30-8:00 PM

Bridge Builder Dinner & Celebration

Your team will receive (8) eight tickets to the dinner (6:30-8:00 pm). During this dinner AFA will be honoring alumni for their achievements in our industry. Additional dinner tickets can be purchased for an additional cost of \$125/ticket.

QUESTIONS?

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