



57th Annual Fertilizer & Pesticide Conference

November 25, 2025

On behalf of the Southern Illinois Fertilizer and Pesticide Conference Board and Southern Illinois University, I'd like to warmly welcome you to the 2025 Conference and thank you for your continued support over the years.

As the holiday season approaches, today offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on the challenges of 2025 and explore ideas and innovations that can help our farms and businesses recover and thrive. It's also a chance to look ahead to 2026 and prepare for the ever-evolving landscape of our industry.

We encourage you to take full advantage of today's presentations—our speakers bring a wealth of knowledge and insight that can inspire new strategies and solutions. Be sure to connect with our vendors throughout the day; their diverse expertise and perspectives are essential to our shared growth and success. This conference would not be possible without their ongoing support, and we invite you to join us in expressing our appreciation.

Today is also a time to network, share experiences, and strengthen relationships across the industry. Thank you again for being here. On behalf of the entire board, I wish you and your families a safe and joyful holiday season.

If you are arriving on Monday, the 24th please join us for a reception in the hotel lobby from 6-8 PM.

Enjoy the day, and embrace the opportunities to learn, connect, and innovate.

Warm regards,

Lucas Green, President
Southern Illinois Fertilizer and Pesticide Board

A complete conference agenda and registration form can be found inside this newsletter.

Conference Agenda

7:30-8:30 am	Registration and Displays
8:30-8:45 am	Welcome , College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences.
8:45-9:35 am	<i>Understanding the EPA's Herbicide Strategy</i> Karla Gage, Associate Professor of Weed Science and Plant Biology, SIU Carbondale This presentation explains the EPA's Herbicide Strategy under the Endangered Species Act, outlining new label requirements, mitigation practices, and compliance steps to protect endangered species.
9:35-10:25 am	<i>Drone Spray Applications: Future or Fantasy and What Does it Take to Get There</i> Dr. Greg Kruger, Rosen's Inc. In this talk, we will explore the science behind making drone applications, where they fit in the market and what must happen to expand the market. We will also cover how to optimize applications and how it may be similar or different than other applications used in row crop agriculture.
10:25-11:00 am	Break (visit with the vendors)
11:00-11:30 am	<i>IFCA Update</i> KJ Johnson, President, IFCA
11:30 am-12 pm	Awards and Recognitions Karla Gage, SIU Carbondale Albert Allen, Midwest Agricultural Scholarship Fund
12-12:55 pm	Lunch
1-1:50 pm	Research Updates on Red Crown Rot of Soybean: Are We Making Progress? Carl. A. Bradley, Professor, University of Kentucky The identification of red crown rot of soybean, the biology of the casual pathogen, and current best disease management practices will be discussed.
1:50-2:40 pm	<i>Illinois Soybean Production Updates</i> Abigail. A. Peterson, Director or Agronomy, Illinois Soybean Association Overview of the latest research and opportunities funded by your soybean checkoff investment. This presentation highlights current projects in soybean management, conservation, and on-farm trials—showing how farmer-funded research is driving new tools, practices, and insights that improve productivity and return on investment (ROI).
2:40-3:00 pm	Break
3:00-3:50 pm	<i>Improving Soil through Best Management Practices</i> Amir Sadeghpour, Associate Professor of Soil Fertility, SIU Carbondale Best management practices including no-till, cover cropping, and double cropping improve soil health, ensuring sustainable, resilient agriculture in Illinois.

About our speakers

Dr. Karla Gage joined the faculty at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2015 and holds a cross-appointment between the Schools of Agricultural Sciences and Biological Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Life, and Physical Science.

Dr. Kruger joined Rosen's in January 2023 where he currently serves as Vice President of Adjuvant Development. Prior to joining Rosen's, Greg spent two years working as the lead developer for Smart Sprayer Technology in the North American market for BASF, and prior to that he was a Weed Science Professor and Director of the Pesticide Application Technology Laboratory at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's West Central Research, Education and Extension Center in North Platte, Nebraska. His areas of expertise include spray application technology, pesticide drift, maximizing efficiency and efficacy of pesticide applications, adjuvants, and the interactions between pest management strategies. Dr. Kruger constructed the Pesticide Application Technology Laboratory which include a set of wind tunnels for measuring droplet sizes from pesticide spray solutions, a patternator for determining pattern distribution and a series of other pieces of equipment for research and training on pesticide applications. He received a B.S. in agribusiness & applied economics from Ohio State University, and an M.S. in plant pathology and Ph.D. in weed science from Purdue University. He is also an active member of multiple scientific organizations, such as the Weed Science Society of America and served as a Liaison to US EPA. He has published greater than 100 papers on weed management and pesticide applications and has spoken around the world on the topics.

KJ Johnson is the President of the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA). In this role, Johnson serves as Chief Executive Officer. He manages the overall operation and resources of IFCA, including oversight of regulatory and legislative issues and the development of programs that promote stewardship and safety for the nutrient and agrichemical industry. From 2013 to 2020, Johnson served as the Director of Government and Industry Relations for IFCA where he was responsible for carrying out the legislative and regulatory policy objectives. He fostered positive working relationships with state and federal legislators and agency officials, as well as with other industry organizations. From 2001 to 2013, Johnson served as the agricultural liaison for Congressman Tim Johnson, assisting the Congressman and constituents with policy issues including agriculture and environmental regulations before the House Agriculture Committee. KJ has been chairman or served on the board of directors of The Fertilizer Institute, Illinois Seed Trade Association, Illinois Ag Roundtable, Illinois State University Alumni Association, FieldWatch and the Business & Industry Federation of Economic Concern (BIFEC). KJ still farms in Champaign/Vermilion counties with his father and two brothers. KJ earned degrees in agri-business and political science from Illinois State University in 2004. KJ and his wife Anna have two sons, Kace and Beckett and a daughter Kambryn. They live in St. Joseph, Illinois.

Dr. Carl Bradley is a Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist with the University of Kentucky (UK). He is based out of the UK-Research & Education Center in Princeton, KY in the western part of the state, where he conducts research on the management and biology of diseases that affect soybean and wheat. Dr. Bradley was raised in southeastern Illinois (near Ridgway, IL), where he grew up on a grain production farm. He received his B.S. from Southern Illinois University, and M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. Dr. Bradley has experience working in agriculture from several different states in previous positions. He was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow with the University of Idaho, an Assistant Professor at North Dakota State University, and an Associate Professor with the University of Illinois before coming to the University of Kentucky in his current position in 2015.

Abigail Peterson, CCA, is the Director of Agronomy for Illinois Soybean Association. She holds a B.S. in Agronomy from Iowa State University. Previously, she worked in soybean seed production in Iowa and as a Field Manager for the Soil Health Partnership, where she developed soil health plans and coordinated cover crop trials. At ISA, Abigail leverages her experience to lead agronomic research and outreach, helping farmers find the best soybean solutions.

Dr. Amir Sadeghpour is an Associate Professor of Soil Fertility in the School of Agricultural Sciences at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, focusing on sustainable soil management and innovative farming practices to enhance agricultural productivity. He earned his Ph.D. from University of Massachusetts Amherst in Plant and Soil Sciences. Prior to moving to SIU, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Virginia Tech, and Cornell University.

College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences (CALPS) update

Welcome to SIU! I am sorry I am not able to join you today, but you are in the able hands of my great colleagues. Below are some highlights and updates from our college.

New Leadership

I started my tenure as Dean of CALPS in Summer 2025. My background in agricultural communication and experiential education complements my Associate Dean Boyd Goodson's in Chemistry and Interim Associate Dean Dipanjan Mazumdar's in Physics. Our priorities are:

- Expanding enrollment through innovative, experiential academic programs and certificates.
- Enhancing student experiences from recruitment to placement.

Fostering collaboration across disciplines in teaching and research.

R1 Institution and 1 of 21

SIU achieved R1 Research Institution designation by the Carnegie Foundation. R1 is the highest research productivity based on metrics such as research expenditures and doctorate production. CALPS is a powerful driver of the research enterprise at SIU. In addition to its R1 designation, SIU also is an Opportunity Institution. This Carnegie designation relates to the broad range of students that are provided educational opportunities at SIU – from first generation, pell-eligible, and lower and middle socioeconomic levels – and who graduate making higher salaries. Only 21 institutions in the country are both Research 1 and Opportunity Colleges and Universities. That is Saluki Magic!

Experiential Learning and Partnerships

With more than 40 academic programs in our six schools, we are providing outstanding academic experiences for undergraduate and graduate students in basic, applied, and social sciences in degree programs as well as minors and certificates. We continue to emphasize hands-on learning in our labs, fields, fisheries, and farms. Our 2,000-acre University farms enhances learning and research capabilities with animals, crops, horticulture, and forestry. Our exception partnership with Sydenstricker Nobbe Partners provides access to leading-edge technology with John Deere equipment.

Dean's Club

We have launched the Dean's Club to fuel excellence in scholaships, research, equipment, and innovative programs. We are inviting folks to be part of our work to lead in educating the next generation of leaders and scientists, discovering solutions that improve the world, and creating impact in communities.

I hope you have a great conference. Go Dawgs!

Kris Boone, Dean



2025 Scholarship Awards

- ♦ Lloyd Burling Ag Fertilizer & Pesticide Industry Award (\$500)
- ♦ George Kapusta Weed Science Award (\$500)
- ♦ Ed Varsa Soil Science Award (\$500)
- ♦ Midwest Agriculture Scholarship Fund

The 2025 Scholarship Awardees will be announced prior to lunch at the conference.

Southern Illinois Fertilizer and Pesticide Board

Officers

Lucas Green, President	Top Ag	lucasg@topag.net
Jacob Davenport, Vice President	Land O Lakes	jdavenport@landolakes.com
Mackenzie Trader, Secretary	Bayer	mackenzie.trader@bayer.com
Rich Selinger, Past President	Rosen's Inc.	rselinger@riw2000.com

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Dan Niemeier	Koch Industries	dan.niemeier@kochind.com

University Advisors

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Dr. Karla Gage	Plant Soil and Ag Systems	kgage@siu.edu
Dr. Jon Schoonover	Forestry	jschoon@siu.edu

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our contributors for your invaluable support. Your commitment plays a vital role in the ongoing success of the Southern Illinois Fertilizer and Pesticide Conference, and

2025 Contributors

Platinum Level

Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC
FMC
Ag Spray Equipment
CHS Inc
Precision Build
Rosen's Inc.

Gold Level

Fertilizer Dealer Supply
Koch Agronomic Services

Silver Level

SIU School of Medicine—
Farm Family Resource Initiative

2024 Contributors

Adams Fertilizer Equipment
Ag Spray Equipment
AGRI Search, Inc.
Agro Liquid
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CHS Agronomy/CPP
Corteva Agriscience
Fertilizer Dealer Supply
Granite City Terminal
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Rosen's Inc.
SIU School of Medicine
-Farm Family Resource Initiative
SNPartners - John Deere
Stueve Construction
Syngenta Crop Protection
Waterway Ag Inc.
Winfield United

If you are interested in setting up a display this year, please contact Jackie Welch at
(618) 536-7751 or at jackiew@siu.edu.

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57th Annual Southern Illinois Fertilizer and Pesticide Conference

November 25, 2025

Participant/Group Registration Form

Please list all individuals included in this registration. If you are registering multiple attendees from the same organization, you may submit one form with all names and contact details below.

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Name and email: 1. _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

2. _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

3. _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

4. _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Conference Fees: Contributors/Vendors ****please select a level below****

_____	BRONZE	\$100-\$199	1 registration + lunch
_____	SILVER	\$200-\$299	1 registration + lunch + 1 exhibit table
_____	GOLD	\$300-\$399	2 registrations & lunches + 1 exhibit table
_____	PLATINUM	\$400+	2 registrations & lunches + 1 exhibit table + location reserved

Contributor/Vendor Total: _____

Individuals or Addtl Reps: \$50 x _____ (# attending) Total: _____

SIU students: \$20 x _____ (# attending) Total: _____

After November 15th,
individual registration
fees increase \$10

GRAND TOTAL: _____

Payment: I am enclosing a check \$ _____ (Make check payable to SIU Carbondale)

I am paying by credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx

Account Number _____ CVV _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card & email: _____

Mail form with payment to:

Events & Outreach
Fertilizer & Pesticide Conference
Mail Code 6705, 1265 Lincoln Drive,
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901

Register online at
conferenceservices.siu.edu

OR call 618) 536-7751

Refund Policy: Refunds will be made,
less a \$15 cancellation fee, if notification
is received prior to Nov. 15, 2025. No
refunds after Nov. 15th.

Event Location: Doubletree, 222 Potomac Blvd, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

P. 618-244-7100



Fifty-Seventh Annual Southern Illinois Fertilizer & Pesticide Conference

November 25, 2025

Upcoming Events

Agriculture Retailers Association Conference & Expo	Dec. 2-4, 2025	Salt Lake City, UT
Illinois CCA Conference	December 11, 2025	Champaign, IL
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Assn. Convention	January 21-23, 2026	Peoria, IL
CCA Exam — check out their website	Quarterly	
FFA/Ag Night at the Game (Salukis v Murray State)	February 6, 2026	Carbondale – SIU Banterra Center
74th Annual All Ag Banquet (call 618/453-2469 or email calps@siu.edu for additional information)	February 27, 2026	Carbondale, IL
2023 Commodity Classic	February 25, 2026	San Antonio, TX
Belleville Research Field Day	TBA	Belleville, IL
Farm Progress Show	September 1-3, 2026	Boone, IA