2025 IFU ANNUAL CONVENTION

Quality Inn & Suites - 2601 E 13TH ST. Ames, IA

FRIDAY, DEC. 5 - DAY 1

9 am - Convention Registration and Check-in Table Opens

10 am to 2 pm - Iowa Local Food Summit
hosted by the Iowa Food System Coalition (lunch provided)
Join farmers, food system professionals, state agencies, and state legislators for a day of conversation and collaboration on the future of Iowa's local food system. The summit will feature three panels, a locally-sourced lunch, and bring together voices from across the state to share ideas, build partnerships, and shape policies that strengthen family farms, local food businesses, and our rural communities.

IOWAFOODSYSTEM COALITION

Featuring:

- **State Agency Panel**
  - Erin Drinnin – Division Director, Community Access and Eligibility, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
  - Sacha Wise – Empower Rural Iowa Director, Economic Development Authority
  - Haley Hook – Legislative Liaison, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
  - Meg Collins – Nutrition and Health Services Consultant, Iowa Dept of Education
- **State Legislator Panel**
  - Senator Annette Sweeney (R, IA-27)
  - Senator Mike Zimmer (D, IA-35)
  - Representative Rob Johnson (D, IA-34)
  - Representative Norlin Mommsen (R, IA-70)

3 to 7 pm - Candidate Forum and Reception
Join fellow IFU members for our upcoming Candidate Forum and Reception. This is your chance to hear directly from senate and congressional candidates in what will be some of the nation's most closely watched races in 2026. We're proud to provide IFU members the opportunity to engage with candidates on stage and connect with them and their teams over drinks and light appetizers.

Confirmed Speakers:

- 1st District: Christina Bohannan, Taylor Wettach
- 2nd District: Lindsay James, Kathy Dolter
- 3rd District: Sarah Trone Garriott, Jennifer Konfrst
- 4th District: Ashley Wolftornabane, Stephanie Steiner
- US Senate: Josh Turek, Nathan Sage

2025 IFU CONVENTION AGENDA

QUALITY INN & SUITES - AMES

SATURDAY, DEC. 6 - DAY 2

7 am - Convention Registration and Check-in Table Opens

8 am - Convention Welcome and State of the Farmers Union Address

8:40 am - Trade & Tariffs
Lori Wallach, Chad Hart, Jonathan Coppess, and Aaron Lehman will discuss how trade policies and global markets shape opportunities and risks for Iowa's farmers.

10 am - Break

10:30 am - Choice of 2 Concurrent Workshops
Session 1: State of Rural Journalism in Iowa
Journalists Art Cullen (Storm Lake Times), Chris Clayton (DTN Progressive Farmer), Cami Koons (Iowa Capital Dispatch), and Doug Burns (Iowa Capital Dispatch) explore the challenges and importance of local journalism in telling rural stories and supporting informed communities.

Session 2: How Local Food Helps the Farmers' Share
Discover how strengthening local food systems can increase farmer profitability, build community resilience, and keep more food dollars in Iowa.

11:30 am - Lunch & Pie Auction

12:15 pm - Future of the Farm Bill, Keynote Address by Jonathan Coppess
Jonathan Coppess shares insights into what's ahead for the next Farm Bill and what it means for the future of family farming and agricultural policy.

1:15 pm - Policy Round tables
Join small-group discussions to share ideas, identify priorities, and shape the foundation for IFU's 2026 policy positions.

2 pm - Choice of 2 Concurrent Workshops
Session 1: Lessons from Polk County: Cancer, Water, and You
Explore recent findings linking water quality and public health in Polk County, and what they mean for farmers and rural communities statewide.

Session 2: History of Rural Iowa Movement & Member Action Workshop
Learn about Iowa's grassroots organizing legacy and how IFU members can take effective action to advance today's rural priorities.

3 pm - Break

3:15 pm - IFU Board Elections
Make your voice heard in shaping the future leadership of the Iowa Farmers Union.

3:45 pm - Policy Round Tables and Debate
Help write the Iowa Farmers Union Policy Book and set legislative priorities for 2026 — Your voice makes a difference!

5 pm - Convention Adjournment