



2025 Southern Outlook Conference Agenda, Knoxville, TN

September 29-30, 2025

UT Conference Center

600 Henley Street, Suite 212, Knoxville TN 37902

Hotel Reservations:

Hilton Knoxville – 501 West Church Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee, 37902-2591, USA

Registration Fee: \$200 per person before September 1st, 2025; \$250 after September 1st.

Registration and Hotel Link:

Registration Link: tiny.utk.edu/SOOutlookReg

Non-Government Hotel Rate: Click [here](#) and code SEECO

Government Hotel Rate: Click [here](#) and code SEECO

Monday, September 29, 2025

7:30 am – 5:00 pm: Registration

Session 1 Moderator: Charley Martinez, University of Tennessee

8:00 am Welcome and Group Introduction

8:00 am – 8:45 am: **Macro Ag Economic Outlook**
Jeffrey Dorfman, NC State University

8:45 am – 9:30 am: **Ag Lending** – Trends in the livestock and crop sectors.
Kevin Kuper, Farm Credit Mid-America

9:30 am – 9:50 am: **Financing Strategies for 2026**
Aaron Smith, University of Tennessee.

9:50 am – 10:10 am: Break



Moderator: Grant Gardner, University of Kentucky

- 10:10 am – 10:40 am: **Agricultural Trade Discussion**
Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University
- 10:40 am – 11:30 am: **Ag Policy Update**
Justin Benavidez, Chief Economist House Ag Committee
- 11:30 am – 12:00 pm: **Big Beautiful Bill Act Updates**
Hunter Biram, University of Arkansas
- 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm: Lunch

Session 2 Moderator: Tori Griffin, University of Tennessee

- 1:15 pm – 1:45 pm: **Wheat and Sorghum Outlook**
Yuri Calil, Texas A&M University
- 1:45 pm – 2:15 pm: **Corn Outlook**
Will Maples, Mississippi State University
- 2:15 pm – 2:45 pm: **Soybean and Canola Outlook**
Grant Gardner, University of Kentucky
- 2:45 pm – 3:15 pm: **Specialty Crop Outlook**
Kim Morgan, University of Florida
- 3:15 pm – 3:25 pm: Break
- 3:25 pm – 3:50 pm: **Cotton Outlook**
Yangxuan Liu, University of Georgia
- 3:50 pm – 4:10 pm: **Peanut Outlook**
Nathan Smith, Clemson University
- 4:10 pm – 4:35 pm: **Rice Outlook**
Ryan Loy, University of Arkansas
- 4:35 pm – 5:00 pm: **SRMEC, Southern Ag Today, and Advisor Update,**
Hunter Biram, University of Arkansas
Candice Foster, Texas A&M University
Nathan Smith, Clemson University
- 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm: **Reception**



Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Session 3 Moderator: Brian Mills, Mississippi State University

8:30 am – 9:00 am:	Poultry Outlook Dennis Brothers, Auburn University
9:00 am – 9:30 am:	Dairy Outlook David Anderson, Texas A&M
9:30 am – 10:00 am:	Beef Outlook Josh Maples, Mississippi State University
10:00 am – 10:15 am:	Break
10:15 am – 10:45 am:	Sheep and Goat Outlook Andrew Griffith, University of Tennessee
10:45 am – 11:15 am:	Pork Outlook Tyler Cozzens, LMIC
11:15 am – 11:45 am:	Hay & Forage Outlook James Mitchell, University of Arkansas
11:45 am – 1:00 pm:	Adjourn – Lunch on your own

Questions about the agenda? Contact Tori Griffin at tmarsh21@utk.edu or 615-374-1283

SEEC Committee July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026:

Tori Griffin, University of Tennessee – SEEC Chair
 Grant Gardner, University of Kentucky – SEEC Vice-Chair
 Brian Mills, Mississippi State University, Secretary
 Pancho Abello, Texas A&M University – Past SEEC Chair

2025 Outlook Planning Committee:

Aaron Smith, University of Tennessee
 Ron Rainey, SRMEC, University of Arkansas