



2026 Southern Outlook Conference Agenda

Knoxville, TN • September 21–22, 2026

UT Conference Center, 600 Henley Street, Suite 212, Knoxville, TN 37902
 Hotel: Hilton Knoxville, 501 West Church Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37902-2591

Registration Fee: \$250 per person before September 1, 2026; \$300 after September 1. [Link](#).
 Hotel Booking: [Non-State of TN Employees](#) | [State of TN Employees](#)

Monday, September 21, 2026

Time	Session / Topic	Speaker(s)
7:30 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	
Session 1 Moderator: Aaron Smith, University of Tennessee		
8:00 am	Welcome and Group Introduction	
8:00 – 8:45 am	Macro Ag Economic Outlook	Courtney Cowley, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
8:45 – 9:45 am	Screwworm Update / Asian Longhorn Tick / Impacts <i>Trends in the livestock and crop sectors</i>	Becky Trout Fryxell – University of Tennessee, Department of Entomology David Anderson – Texas A&M University
9:45 – 10:00 am	Break	
10:00 – 10:45 am	Agricultural Trade Discussion	Andrew Muhammad, University of Tennessee
10:45 – 11:15 am	Input Outlook	Jordan Shockley, University of Kentucky
11:15 – 12:00 pm	Ag Policy Update	Bart Fischer / Joe Outlaw, Texas A&M University
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	
Session 2 Moderator: Grant Gardner, University of Kentucky		
1:00 – 1:30 pm	State Income Estimates	Alejandro Plastina, University of Missouri
1:30 – 1:50 pm	Ag Law Update	Holiday Scott, University of Tennessee
1:50 – 2:10 pm	Labor Updates and Outlook	Elizabeth Canales, Mississippi State University

Time	Session / Topic	Speaker(s)
2:10 – 2:30 pm	Sheep and Goat Outlook	Andrew Griffith, University of Tennessee
2:30 – 2:50 pm	Break	
2:50 – 3:10 pm	Dairy Outlook	Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky
3:10 – 3:30 pm	Beef Outlook	Josh Maples, Mississippi State University
3:30 – 3:50 pm	Poultry Outlook	Dennis Brothers, Auburn University
3:50 – 4:10 pm	Break	
4:10 – 4:30 pm	Pork Outlook	Tyler Cozzens, LMIC
4:30 – 4:50 pm	Hay & Forage Outlook	James Mitchell, University of Arkansas
4:50 – 5:00 pm	SRMEC, Southern Ag Today, and Advisor Update	Hunter Biram, University of Arkansas Candice Foster, Texas A&M University Adam Kantrovich, Clemson University
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Reception (TBD)	

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Time	Session / Topic	Speaker(s)
Session 3 Moderator: Brian Mills, Mississippi State University		
8:00 – 8:40	World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates	OCE / USDA
8:00 – 8:20 am	Corn and Sorghum Outlook	Yuri Calil, Texas A&M University
8:20 – 8:40 am	Soybean Outlook and Southern Canola Update	Grant Gardner, University of Kentucky
8:40 – 9:00 am	Wheat Outlook	Pancho Abello, Texas A&M University
9:00 – 9:20 am	Specialty Crop Outlook	Tim Woods, University of Kentucky
9:20 – 9:40 am	Cotton Outlook	John Robinson, Texas A&M University
9:40 – 10:00 am	Break	
10:00 – 10:20 am	Peanut Outlook	Nathan Smith, Clemson University
10:20 – 10:40 am	Rice Outlook	Ryan Loy, University of Arkansas
10:40 – 11:00 am	Crop / Livestock Insurance Update	Hunter Biram / Ryan Loy, University of Arkansas

Time	Session / Topic	Speaker(s)
11:00 – 11:20 am	Biofuels Update	Todd Hubbs, Oklahoma State University
11:30 pm	Adjourn – Lunch on your own	

Questions about the agenda? Contact Grant Gardner at Grant.Gardner@uky.edu or 615-374-1283.

SEEC Committee — July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Grant Gardner, University of Kentucky — SEEC Chair
 Brian Mills, Mississippi State University — SEEC Vice-Chair
 Ryan Loy, University of Arkansas — SEEC Secretary
 Pancho Abello, Texas A&M University — Past SEEC Chair

2026 Outlook Planning Committee

Aaron Smith, University of Tennessee
 Charley Martinez, King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management
 Ron Rainey, SRMEC, University of Arkansas