

2026 Plains Nutrition Council Spring Conference
Plaza San Antonio Hotel & Spa, Autograph Collection
555 S Alamo St | San Antonio, TX 78205
April 8th – 10th, 2026

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: The 2026 Plains Nutrition Council Spring Conference will begin with a closed-door session for Professional members only at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, April 8th. The Professional members-only session is expected to conclude around 6:00 PM, followed by a pre-conference reception hosted by Zoetis from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Zoetis will then host a pre-conference symposium that is open to all on the morning of Thursday, April 9th. The general session will begin at 1:00 PM on the afternoon of April 9th and conclude around 5:30 PM, followed by a reception hosted by Cargill Branded Feeds. The Friday morning session will begin at 8:00 AM and adjourn around noon on April 10th. General and detailed agendas can be found on the following pages.

LODGING: A block of rooms will be available for the nights of April 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th at both the Plaza San Antonio Hotel & Spa, Autograph Collection and the adjacent Kimpton Santo San Antonio – Riverwalk, at the group rate of \$229.00/night. These rooms will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The room block at the Plaza can be accessed at <https://book.passkey.com/e/51138865>. The room block at the Kimpton can be accessed at <https://book.passkey.com/e/51138901>. Certain nights within the block may fill prior to others, which may result in block rate unavailability for a portion of the stay. It may be necessary to book a portion of the nights outside of the block and the remainder within the block if rooms are available, which may require a phone call to the hotel. In the event that the block fills, all efforts will be made to increase the number of rooms available within the block, however the addition of rooms cannot be guaranteed and is unlikely. The Executive Committee requested that the maximum number of rooms permitted by the hotels be included in the block. Please do not make reservations that are likely to be cancelled, as that may prevent others from accessing the group rates.

TRAVEL: San Antonio is serviced by most major airlines. The conference will be held within the Plaza San Antonio Hotel & Spa, therefore there will be no shuttle service provided by the conference hotel. Downtown airport shuttles, ride-shares, and taxi services are expected to run throughout the days of the conference. On-site parking is expected to be limited, so please plan off-site parking ahead of time.

GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION AND LUNCHEON: A graduate student poster competition and luncheon will be offered at this year's Spring Conference. Graduate student poster submissions must be received no later than 2:00 PM CST on Friday, February 13th, 2026. Submissions must be completed at https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77dLvbaJycogD66. A luncheon will be available for graduate students and Legends of Feedlot Nutrition inductees that attend the Plains Nutrition Council Spring Conference. Spring Conference speakers will also be invited to join graduate students, LOFN inductees, and the PNC Executive Committee members during this luncheon, which will begin at 11:30 AM on Thursday, April 9th. Students should indicate their intent to attend the luncheon on their registration.

REGISTRATION FEE: Membership fees will be included in the conference registration fee, therefore there is no need to become a member or pay annual membership dues separately if also registering for the conference. Those not registering for the conference should pay membership dues in order to continue to receive PNC correspondence. Registration information can be found on the PNC website at <https://theplainsnutritioncouncil.com/conference-registration/>. Registration fees have not been increased for 2026, with exception to late and on-site student registrations, and will be as follows:

- Early registration – *guaranteed a printed copy of the proceedings*
 - Professional members: \$175.00 per person no later than Wednesday, March 11th
 - Allied members: \$225.00 per person no later than Wednesday, March 11th
 - Student members: Free if registered no later than Wednesday, March 11th
- Late registration – *NOT guaranteed a printed copy of the proceedings*
 - Professional members: \$225.00 per person no later than Wednesday, April 1st
 - Allied members: \$275.00 per person no later than Wednesday, April 1st
 - Student members: \$50.00 per person no later than Wednesday, April 1st
- On-site registration – *NOT guaranteed a printed copy of the proceedings*
 - Professional members: \$325.00 per person on or after Thursday, April 2nd, check or card only
 - Allied members: \$375.00 per person on or after Thursday, April 2nd, check or card only
 - Student members: \$150.00 per person on or after Thursday, April 2nd, check or card only

Professional members must have a Ph.D. and currently serve as a: 1) private industry consultant, 2) university faculty, 3) non-university researcher in a government laboratory or in a commercial research facility working in the area of beef cattle nutrition or management, or 4) technical service nutritionist or beef cattle production specialist. The only exception to a Professional member not having a Ph.D. are Professional members with a Master’s degree that currently serve as a private nutrition consultant in the United States. All other members are allied or student members. **Allied members** include sales associates, veterinarians, international visitors, chemists, laboratory affiliates, engineers, producers, and all other representatives of the allied cattle feeding industry that are not considered professional members. Please select the appropriate affiliation when registering for the conference. The Executive Committee reserves the right to change membership type of an individual if the individual does not meet the requirements outlined for the respective membership type. **Student members** include all graduate and undergraduate students.

PROFESSIONAL COURTESY: The Spring Conference is a success because it is a great place to gain useful knowledge, network with other professionals in the industry, catch up with friends, and make business contacts. We do not wish to stifle these activities. However, some have expressed concern over the amount of “cold-calling” that occurs at the conference. Please respect the time of those attending the conference.

QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION can be submitted via email to info@theplainsnutritioncouncil.com.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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2026 Plains Nutrition Council Spring Conference general agenda
Plaza San Antonio Hotel & Spa, 555 S Alamo St, San Antonio, TX 78205
April 8th – 10th, 2026

Wednesday – April 8th, 2026

12:00 to 2:00 PM	Check-in and registration table open, graduate poster setup
2:00 to 6:00 PM	Professional members only closed-door session
6:00 to 8:00 PM	Pre-conference reception hosted by Zoetis

Thursday – April 9th, 2026

7:45 to 11:30 AM	Check-in and registration table open
7:00 to 8:00 AM	View graduate student posters
8:00 to 11:30 AM	Pre-conference symposium presented by Zoetis
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 to 5:30 PM	Plains Nutrition Council Spring Conference opening session
1:00 to 5:30 PM	Check-in and registration table open
5:30 to 7:30 PM	RAMP and Sweet Bran reception hosted by Cargill Branded Feeds

Friday – April 10th, 2026

7:45 to 10:00 AM	Check-in and registration table open
8:00 to 8:30 AM	Plains Nutrition Council business meeting
8:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Plains Nutrition Council Spring Conference closing session

2026 Plains Nutrition Council Spring Conference detailed agenda
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Wednesday – April 8th, 2026

12:00 to 2:00 PM	Check-in and registration table open (La Villita Foyer)
	Graduate poster setup (Mission and La Boveda)
2:00 to 6:00 PM	Professional members only closed-door session (La Villita Ballroom)
2:00 to 2:10 PM	Dr. Lee-Anne Walter of Merck Animal Health – <i>Introduction and overview of the closed-door session</i>
2:10 to 2:40 PM	Dr. Adam Shreck of TELUS Agriculture & Consumer Goods – <i>Why are we feeding cattle as long as we are?</i>
2:40 to 3:10 PM	Dr. Kristin Hales of Texas Tech University – <i>Energetics of extending days on feed in cattle</i>
3:10 to 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 to 4:00 PM	Dr. Dale Woerner of Texas Tech University – <i>The cost of fat and a new era for red meat yield</i>
4:00 to 4:30 PM	Dr. Brad White of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Beef Cattle Institute – <i>Days on feed and disease risk</i>
4:30 to 5:00 PM	Break
5:00 to 6:00 PM	<i>Speaker panel and open-floor discussion</i> , moderated by Mr. Kevin Ochsner of Agcellerate (La Villita Ballroom)
6:00 to 8:00 PM	Pre-conference reception hosted by Zoetis (Oasis Lawn)

Thursday – April 9th, 2026

7:00 to 8:00 AM	View graduate student posters (Mission and La Boveda)
7:45 to 11:30 AM	Check-in and registration table open (La Villita Foyer)
8:00 to 11:30 AM	Pre-conference symposium presented by Zoetis (La Villita Ballroom), with tentative topics to include a research update on long-fed beef and beef-on-dairy cattle, a review of implant options and research data for drylot cattle, maximizing value from implants in yearling cattle, economic opportunities from terminal sorting and chuteside implant services, and the Folds of Honor partnership: Honor their sacrifice. Educate their legacy.

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Thursday – April 9th, 2026 (continued)

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	Participant boxed lunch, provided by Zoetis (La Villita Foyer) Graduate student, Legend of Feedlot Nutrition, and speaker luncheon, sponsored by Kemin Animal Nutrition and Health (Anaqua Pavilion)
1:00 to 5:30 PM	Spring Conference opening session (La Villita Ballroom), check-in and registration table open (La Villita Foyer)
1:00 to 1:10 PM	Dr. Lee-Anne Walter of Merck Animal Health – <i>Welcome and introductions</i>
1:10 to 2:00 PM	Mr. Josh Winegarner of Texas Cattle Feeders Association – <i>Policy impacts to cattle feeding</i>
2:00 to 2:30 PM	Dr. Tony Bryant – <i>2026 Legends of Feedlot Nutrition induction ceremony</i>
2:30 to 3:10 PM	Break and view graduate student posters (Mission and La Boveda)
3:10 to 4:00 PM	Dr. Paul Beck of Oklahoma State University – <i>Backgrounding strategy's impact on feedyard performance and carcass value</i>
4:00 to 4:50 PM	Dr. Zach Smith of South Dakota State University – <i>Research update: Feed intake management, growth technologies, and days on feed: impacts on performance, efficiency, and carcass merit in feedlot cattle</i>
4:50 to 5:10 PM	Mr. Landon Canterbury of Texas Tech University – <i>Presentation of last year's winning graduate student poster – Energy balance and net energy for maintenance of beef x dairy crossbred steers</i>
5:10 to 5:30 PM	View graduate student posters (Mission and La Boveda)
5:30 to 7:30 PM	RAMP and Sweet Bran reception hosted by Cargill Branded Feeds (Anaqua Pavilion and Oasis Lawn)

Friday – April 10th, 2026

7:45 to 10:00 AM	Check-in and registration table open (La Villita Foyer)
8:00 to 8:30 AM	Plains Nutrition Council business meeting (La Villita Ballroom)

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Friday – April 10th, 2026 (continued)

8:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Spring Conference closing session (La Villita Ballroom)
8:30 to 9:20 AM	Dr. Kristin Hales of Texas Tech University – <i>Research update: The energetic cost of a lipopolysaccharide challenge in growing beef steers</i>
9:20 to 10:10 AM	Dr. Jim MacDonald of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln – <i>Evaluating and valuing added fat sources</i>
10:10 to 10:40 AM	Break and view graduate student posters (Mission and La Boveda)
10:40 to 11:00 AM	Dr. Matt Quinn of TELUS Agriculture & Consumer Goods – <i>Graduate student poster awards presentation</i> , sponsored by Kemin Animal Nutrition and Health
11:00 to 11:50 AM	Dr. Mike Galyean of Texas Tech University – <i>Relationships between fiber in feedlot diets and growth performance of beef cattle</i>
11:50 AM to 12:00 PM	Dr. John Richeson of West Texas A&M University – <i>Closing remarks and adjourn</i>