



2015 NATIONAL VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

The Future of the U.S. Food System: Providing Nutritious, Sustainable, and Healthy Food for All Americans

May 18-20, 2015 in Austin, Texas

Austin Marriott South

The 17th Annual National Value Added Agriculture Conference will feature current issues that impact the value added of food and agricultural systems, food security, and rural development. The recent farm bill, food waste, labor issues, functional foods, technology and big data, the adaptability and resilience of the food and agricultural system in the new century are among the topics to be discussed toward the goal of designing and building a sustainable regional food network and agricultural systems.

Hosted by: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University

Call for Abstracts:

- ❖ Research Papers, Work-in-Progress and Proposal Ideas
- ❖ Extension Programs (Education & Training)
- ❖ Educational Curriculum & Teaching Pedagogy
- ❖ Policy Design & Proposals
- ❖ Case Studies & Student Projects



Who Should Attend:

Researchers, extension educators, teachers, and students from universities, tribal and community colleges, and K-12 schools; University Extension Specialists, Rural Development Specialists, State Department of Agriculture officials, Small Business Development and Farm Bureau Service providers, producer/consumer associations, farmers, producers, consultants, service providers; local, state, Federal policy makers, and food policy professionals.

Conference participants will have the opportunity to interact with innovative business owners and economic developers from throughout Texas and around the United States to discuss food security, adding value to agricultural products, and rural economic development. The conference will include breakout sessions and tours to allow maximum interaction between participants and practitioners.



Sponsored by:

Abstract Preparation and Submission Guidelines

We seek high quality presentations that will stimulate, inspire, motivate, and advance knowledge of and practices related to food security and rural viability through the development of food systems.

The objectives of this conference include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying opportunities for and barriers facing rural America with respect to local/regional food system development and food security
- Discussing the role of functional food and nutrition on food systems and agriculture value added
- Showcasing science-based, successful strategies or programs adopted by producers, educators, and service providers
- Exploring robust measurements of the resilience and adaptability of established local/regional food systems
- Discussing the effects of existing local, state, and Federal initiatives and regulations on local/regional food systems and Rural America with respect to social, economic, and ecological variations
- Developing collaborative approaches for long-term regional food systems research, education and outreach

Session Topics

Food Safety; Food Security; Food Waste; Functional Foods on Health and Valued Added; Food Hubs and Regional Food Networks; Regulation and Policies; Current Labor Issues; Technology and Big Data on Value Added and Food Systems; Entrepreneurship; Rural Development; Marketing and Distribution

The abstract is limited to no more than 300 words in WORD document format.

Information should include:

- (1) Contact author's name, email, and affiliation
- (2) Co-authors' names and affiliation if applicable
- (3) Title of presentation
- (4) Preferred types of presentation:

Please rank your preferences if your presentation fits into more than one category: Oral Presentation, Poster Presentation, Round Table Discussion, Panel Discussion, Symposium, Workshop.

- (5) A clear description of purpose, objectives, method, practices, activities, audience, and impacts.

At least one author must register and attend the conference. No more than 3 abstracts per author will be included in the program. All papers and abstracts presented at the conference will be considered for publication in the conference proceedings

The deadline for submission is January 31, 2015.

Please submit your abstract in Microsoft WORD format to the Conference Chair, Dr. Marco Palma at mapalma@tamu.edu with the subject line: NVA Conference Abstract Submission

Conference information online and registration link:

<http://www.agmrc.org/national-value-added-agriculture-conference/>

Thank you for your participation, we look forward to seeing you in Austin, Texas!