



RCAS Winter Meeting – Tallahassee, FL

**Four Points by Sheraton-Tallahassee Hotel & Holiday Inn Express-Pensacola Hotel
February 8-11, 2026**

Welcome to Tallahassee Florida and the campus of Florida A&M!

As Dean of the College of Agriculture & Food Sciences, I would like to encourage all RCAS members and others interested in research center administration to register and attend the RCAS Winter 2026 Meeting. Florida A&M University is thrilled to have both UF/IFAS Research and Auburn University's Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center as co-hosts for this winter meeting. RCAS leadership will have an impactful lineup of speakers for the Monday meeting and the two-day bus tour across the Florida Panhandle into southeastern Alabama should allow all attendees to learn much about the diversity of agriculture and how three different land grant universities facilitate field, grove, and other research in the Panhandle of Florida and southeastern Alabama.

Information about how to register for this meeting can be found below. Please register as soon as possible in order for RCAS leadership to accommodate the group and do not hesitate to reach out to me or anyone in RCAS leadership with questions, etc.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting – *Go Rattlers!*

Dr. G. Dale Wesson

Dean of College of Agriculture & Food Sciences at Florida A&M

Online RegFox Registration Link for 2026 Winter Meeting: <https://rcas.regfox.com/rcas-winter-2026-meeting-famuufauburn>

Cost = \$350.00 (**Note:** \$175.00 for first-time attendees)

Airport Information:

Tallahassee International Airport* (TLH) – American Airlines & Delta Airlines
Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) – American Airlines, Delta Airlines, etc.
Pensacola International Airport (PNS) – American Airlines, Delta Airlines, etc.

* - Closest airport to Four Points by Sheraton-Tallahassee Hotel.

Lodging Information for Two Separate Hotels:

Four Points by Sheraton-Tallahassee Downtown Hotel

316 West Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, Florida, 32301

Note: Reservations at this hotel need to be made for the nights of February 8th, 9th, and 11th (if needed). Cost per night is \$209.00 plus applicable taxes.

Deadline to reserve rooms at this hotel at the group rate is **January 19, 2026.**

Please use this reservation link: [Book your group rate for RCAS Conference](#)

Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Pensacola Airport North I-10 Hotel

7827 North Davis Highway
Pensacola, Florida, 32514

Note: Reservations at this hotel need to be made for the night of February 10, 2026.

Cost is \$90.00 plus \$2.00 parking fee & applicable taxes.

Deadline to reserve rooms at this hotel at the group rate is **January 19, 2026.**

Please use this reservation link: [RCAS - UF](#)



Teaming Up for
FLORIDA

and...



RCAS Winter 2026 Meeting Schedule

February 8-11, 2026

Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (Host) - Tallahassee, FL

University of Florida/IFAS & Auburn University-Gulf Coast REC (REC Tour Co-Hosts)



Sunday, February 8, 2026

- 1:30-2:30 PM** **Registration** – Four Points by Sheraton-Tallahassee Downtown Hotel (316 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, FL)
- 2:30-5:00 PM** **Executive (Open) Business Meeting** – Four Points by Sheraton-Tallahassee Downtown Hotel (Ornate Chorus Ballroom)
- 6:00 PM** **Super Bowl Watch Party at Hotel** (Drinks & Light Snacks provided)

Monday, February 9, 2026

- 8:00-8:30 AM** **Travel from Four Points by Sheraton Hotel to Grand Ballroom on Florida A&M Campus** (1628 South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Tallahassee)
- 8:30-9:00 AM** **Registration & Welcome** – Jim Boyer, RCAS President (UF/IFAS, [PSREU-Citra](#))
- 9:00-9:30 AM** **Florida A&M-CAFS Welcome & Research Overview** – Dr. G. Dale Wesson, Dean of College of Agriculture & Food Sciences at Florida A&M ([FAMU-CAFS](#))
- 9:30-10:00 AM** **Florida Panhandle Agriculture Overview** – Jeff Pittman, District 4 Director w/Florida Farm Bureau ([Florida Farm Bureau](#))
- 10:00-10:30 AM** **Pasture & Crop Insurance for Research Centers** – Terry Jarrett, SVP for [CKP Insurance](#)
- 10:30-10:45 AM** **Break**
- 10:45-11:15 AM** **Succession Planning for Research Centers** – Dr. Scott Stewart, Center Director at University of Tennessee's [West Tennessee AgResearch & Education Center](#)
- 11:15-11:45 AM** **Saving Time & Empowering Impact – Florida Cooperative Extension's Mission for Modernization Through AI** – Dr. Christian Christensen, Director of Business Intelligence for [UF/IFAS Extension](#)
- 11:45-12:15 PM** **Preview of Summer 2026 Meeting** – Dewey Mann, Operations Director of Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens & Director of Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resource Laboratory at Ohio State University ([Waterman](#))
- 12:15-1:45 PM** **Lunch & UF/IFAS Welcome** – Dr. Rob Gilbert, Dean for Research for UF/IFAS ([FAES](#)) (Florida A&M Campus Ballroom)
- 1:45-2:30 PM** **Tour of FAMU-CAFS Campus Facilities & Bus Tour of Florida State University Campus**
- 2:30-3:00 PM** **Travel to Florida A&M Center for Viticulture & Small Fruit Research** (6361 Mahan Drive, Tallahassee - [FAMU Viticulture Center](#))
- 3:00-5:00 PM** **Florida A&M Presentations, Guided Tour, & Wine Tasting**
- 5:00-5:30 PM** **Return to Four Points by Sheraton-Tallahassee Hotel**
- 6:00 PM** **Dinner** (On own)

RCAS Winter 2026 Meeting Schedule

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Tallahassee, FL

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Note: Times in **RED** are Central Time

- 7:00-7:45 AM** Breakfast (Hotel Lobby)
- 8:00 AM** Checkout and Depart Four Points by Sheraton Hotel for Bus Tour
- 8:45-11:45 AM** Arrive at Florida A&M University Research and Extension Center ([FAMU-REC](#))
– Tour/Presentations (4259 Bainbridge Hwy, Quincy, FL)
- 11:45 AM** Depart for UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center-Quincy ([NFREC](#))
(155 Research Road, Quincy, FL)
- 12:00-2:30 PM** Working Lunch (& Business Meeting) and Presentations at North Florida REC-Quincy
(Host: Dr. Dean Pringle, Center Director for NFREC)
- 2:30 PM** Depart for West Florida Research and Education Center-Jay ([WFREC](#))
(4253 Experiment Drive, Highway 182)
- 4:00-5:30 PM** Arrive to West Florida REC-Jay – Facilities & Turfgrass Tour (Hosts: Dr. Wood & Dr. Unruh, Center Director & Associate Center Director for WFREC)
- 5:30 PM** Dinner & Awards Program
- 7:00 PM** Depart for Holiday Inn Express & Suites Pensacola Airport North–I-10 Hotel
(7827 North Davis Highway Pensacola, Florida)
- 7:45 PM** Arrive at Holiday Inn Express & Suites Pensacola Airport North–I-10 Hotel

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

- 6:30-7:15 AM** Breakfast (Complimentary at Hotel)
- 7:30 AM** Depart Holiday Inn Express & Suites Hotel for Claude Peteet Mariculture Center
(999 Commerce Drive, Gulf Shores, AL)
- 8:45-9:45 AM** Arrive and Tour Claude Peteet Mariculture Center ([CPMC](#))
- 9:45 AM** Depart for Auburn-Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center ([GCREC](#))
(8300 State Highway 104, Fairhope, AL)
- 10:45 AM** Arrive at Auburn-Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center – Tour & Presentations
hosted by Regional AAES Director, Jarrod Jones
- 12:00-12:45 PM** Lunch – Onsite at Auburn-Gulf Coast REC
- 12:45 PM** Depart for NFREC-Marianna for Bull Test Station & Peanut Industry Tour
- 3:45-5:00 PM** Arrive at NFREC-Marianna Bull Test Station & Peanut Industry Overview
([NFREC-Marianna](#) with [Florida Foundation Seed Producers](#))
- 5:00 PM** Depart for Four Points by Sheraton Hotel-Tallahassee (Light Dinner/Snacks on buses)
- 7:15 PM** Arrive at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel-Tallahassee – End of Meeting