

Research Center Administrators Society 2026 Winter Meeting

Florida Panhandle & Southern Alabama

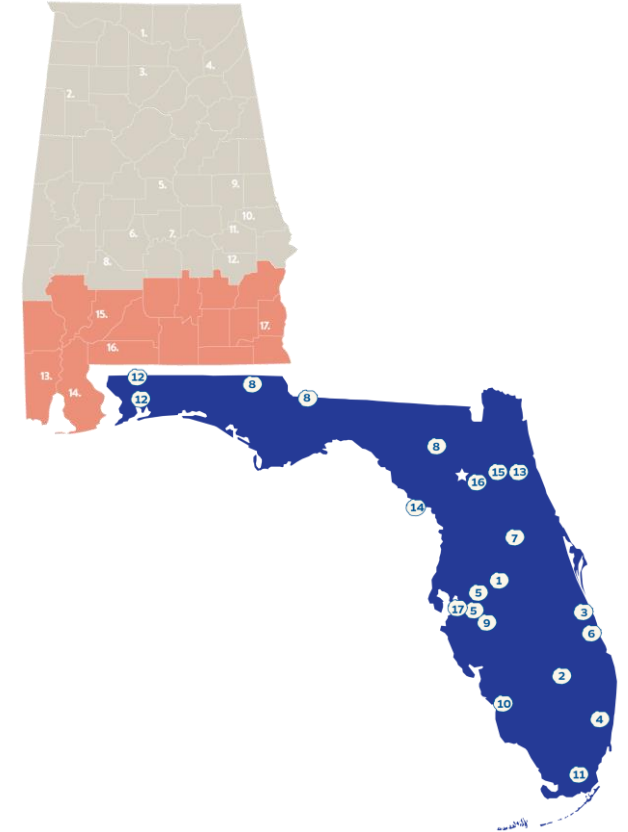
February 8–11, 2026



Research Center Administrators Society 2026 Winter Meeting

Host/Co-Host Institutions:

- RCAS will tour 3 land grant university research locations at one meeting – Florida A&M (FAMU), UF/IFAS and Auburn.
- FAMU is an 1890 land grant institution located in Tallahassee, FL. FAMU will be the lead host institution and provide the Monday meeting location, campus tour, and tour of FAMU REC-Quincy.
- UF/IFAS will host two bus tour stops at North Florida REC-Quincy and West Florida REC-Jay.
- Auburn University will host a bus tour site host at Gulf Coast REC-Fairhope.



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Meeting Information:

- Dates: February 8-11, 2026
- Location: Start in Tallahassee, FL and travel the Panhandle to Fairhope, AL
- Airports to Consider: Tallahassee (THL), Jacksonville (JAX), Panama City (ECP), Albany, GA (ABY), or Pensacola (PNS)
- Tallahassee is readily accessible via Interstate 10 (east-west) and 1 hour & 20 minutes from the Interstate 10-Interstate 75 interchange in North Florida.



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Sunday, February 8, 2026:

- Meeting Registration at Four Points by Sheraton-Tallahassee Downtown (1:30-2:30 PM EST)
- Executive Business Meeting at Four Points by Sheraton-Tallahassee Downtown meeting room (2:30-5:00 PM EST)
- Super Bowl Watch Party at Hotel (6:00 PM EST)



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Monday, February 9, 2026:

- Welcome and Introductions – RCAS President
- FAMU Welcome and Mission Efforts – Dr. Dale Wesson, FAMU Dean of College of Agriculture & Food Sciences
- Florida Panhandle Agriculture Overview – Florida Farm Bureau Federation
- Ag. Experiment Station-Related Presentations
- Tour of FAMU campus facilities – (labs, greenhouses, etc.)
- Dinner on your own



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Tuesday, February 10, 2026:

- Tour FAMU Research and Extension Center-Quincy
- Working lunch (& Business Meeting) and tour of UF/IFAS NFREC-Quincy
- Tour UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center-Jay
- Dinner and Awards Program
- Overnight Holiday Inn Express & Suites Pensacola



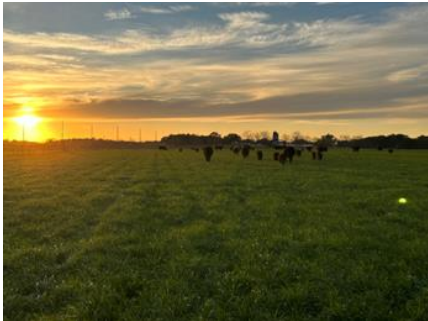
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Wednesday, February 11, 2026:

- Claude Peteet Mariculture Center – Gulf Shores, AL
- Auburn Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center-Fairhope, AL
- UF/IFAS NFREC-Marianna - Bull Test and Peanut Industry Tour
- Meeting ends at Four Points Sheraton-Tallahassee Downtown



**Alabama Agricultural
Experiment Station**
AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY



UF | IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



AU
AUBURN
AGRICULTURE

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Things to do in Tallahassee & Surroundings (Arrive Early):

- Florida State Capitol & Museum of Florida History – Exhibits on Florida's past and present.
- Mission San Luis – A reconstructed 17th-century Spanish mission and Apalachee village.
- Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park – Formal gardens and walking trails.
- St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge & Lighthouse – Birding, hiking, and coastal views.



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Things to do going west in the Panhandle:

- Apalachicola & St. George Island – Quaint fishing town, oysters, historic homes, and a scenic barrier island. Inshore and offshore fishing charters are available.
- Panama City Beach – Famous white-sand Gulf beaches, pier fishing, and deep-sea fishing charters.
- Marianna Area – Florida Caverns State Park (underground tours) or paddling on Econfina Creek.



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Things to do in Pensacola & Gulf Coast:

- National Naval Aviation Museum – One of the world's largest aviation museums.
- Historic Pensacola Village – Restored homes and museums downtown.
- Gulf Islands National Seashore – Pristine beaches & Fort Pickens.
- Fishing Charters – Pensacola is known for both inshore and offshore trips; local captains offer half-day and full-day excursions.
- Day Trip: Mobile, Alabama – USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.



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FAMU, UF/IFAS, and Auburn are excited to showcase both Florida panhandle and southern Alabama agriculture!

Please consider attending the 2026 Winter Meeting – February 8-11th

