



National Association of Institutional Agribusiness

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www.naiaweb.com

The National Association of Institutional Agribusiness (NAIA) strives to meet the educational, networking, and professional growth needs of its membership, which is comprised of correctional and other institutional agribusiness professionals employed by federal, state and local institutions.

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Arkansas!

I hope everyone is having a great growing season this year. It's hard to believe that the year is over half gone... seems the older I get the quicker it moves!

I hope everyone is registered for the NAIA Conference in Hot Springs Arkansas September 8-12th. We think we have put together a good conference and activities that everyone will enjoy.

Our training day has a great line up of speakers from the Cooperative Extension Service of Arkansas along with Arkansas State University and a couple of our own people. I am very excited about our banquet speaker. Damon West has spoken to most of the prominent football teams across the country and large corporations. He has a great story to tell. If you are holding out on registering, hurry up and get those in. The Hotel Hot Springs is full on Monday night and filling up fast the rest of the week.

I hope to see everyone in Arkansas!



DAVEY FARABOUGH

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NAIA

National Training Conference

2025



September 8-11, 2025



Corn and Cows



Herd of Deere



Photos courtesy of <http://hotsprings.org>
Audrey Smith and Mikel Hickerson



Cummins Unit Farm



National Association of Institutional Agribusiness

2025 CONFERENCE AGENDA Hot Springs, Arkansas

Monday, September 8, 2025

2:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Registration
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	NAIA Board Meeting
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast provided
8:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Vendor Trade Show Presentations/Educational Sessions
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch provided
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Vendor Trade Show Presentations/Networking/Group Discussion
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Dinner Reception

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast provided
8:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Travel & Farm Tours
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch provided
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Farm Tours (Continued)
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner on the Farm provided
7:15 - 8:30 p.m.	Travel back to Hotel

Thursday, September 11, 2025

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast provided
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast/Business Meeting
10:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Training Sessions, Networking/Lunch on Own
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	NAIA Board Meeting
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Banquet

Friday, September 12, 2025

7:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast on your own
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	NAIA Board Meeting

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NAIA PURPOSE: *"To promote the pooling and sharing of meaningful information; to preserve the integrity of institutional agribusiness; and to provide the resources for personal development of agribusiness professionals."*

TAKE A TRIP DOWN Memory LANE

2010 NAIA National Conference in Arkansas

Special Thanks to
Curtis McCarthy for
sharing these photos



SUMMER BOARD MEETING



On June 2, 2025, members of the National Association of Institutional Agri-Business (NAIA) Board gathered in Oklahoma for the Annual NAIA Summer Board Meeting. After an initial meeting and lunch at the Oklahoma Correctional Industries and Agri-Services Showroom in Oklahoma City, the group traveled south to the **Lexington Assessment and Reception Center (LARC)** Farm Unit.

The **LARC** farm is home to Oklahoma Agri-Services' goat herd, comprising of almost 350 Spanish and Boer goats. **LARC** is also home to the Agri-Services' Bull Production program. A herd of approximately 100 head of the best cows from around the state make up the cowherd at **LARC**. Cows are bred utilizing

artificial insemination to some of the best Angus bulls available each spring to produce bulls for utilization at all other farm units across the state. Bulls are born at **LARC**, take a trip to Granite, Oklahoma for wheat pasture (*if the weather allows and wheat pasture is available*), and then return to **LARC** where they stay and grow before being sent to work at another unit at around 2 years of age. Currently, Agri-Services keeps about 25-30 of the best prospects annually.

After leaving **LARC**, the group traveled on to Durant, Oklahoma, to the Choctaw Hotel. There they toured the hotel in preparation for Oklahoma hosting the 2026 NAIA Conference, before calling it a night and enjoying dinner and the entertainment options at the hotel.

The Agri-Services' Dairy milks over 150 cows a day, collecting an average of 800 gallons of raw milk per day.

Tuesday morning was consumed with the Executive Board meeting, but the group got back on the road upon its completion for a trip to the **Howard McLeod Correctional Center (HMCC)** in Atoka, Oklahoma. Board members were treated to a steak lunch and sides from Agri-Services' Opportunity Buy program, while meeting with the



SUMMER BOARD MEETING

HMCC Warden and learning a little about some of the programs offered there. HMCC is the largest of Oklahoma's Agri-Services' farms, with over 5,200 acres of pasture, cropland and pecan orchards. The cowherd at HMCC is used for a research project involving artificial insemination and steer feed out/harvest in cooperation with the International Brangus Breeders Association. The herd is heavily influenced by that program with a big portion of the herd having a touch of ear in them. The group was able to view Brangus calves at side of cows, as well as Brangus females in production – the result of years of cooperation and keeping the Brangus AI sired females. After viewing some of the cattle herd and the working horses used at the HMCC unit, the board moved on to McAlester, Oklahoma to visit the Jackie Brannon Correctional Center (JBCC).

At JBCC, the board was given a tour of the Agri-Services' Meat Processing Center (MPC) and the Dairy. The MPC provides almost all the protein served in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections' kitchens, either through product production or opportunity buys. Chicken sausage links, bologna, hamburger patties, and hot links are just a few of the items made at the MPC. The MPC research and development team has been working hard to make a variety of foods that are tasty AND cost effective.

The Agri-Services' Dairy milks over 150 cows a day, collecting an average of 800 gallons of raw milk per day. Milk is pasteurized and homogenized on site and packaged in 5-gallon bladders for use in the department's facilities across the state.

The group traveled back to Durant for another evening of dinner and entertainment at the Choctaw Hotel before getting an early start back to Oklahoma City to catch flights home.

The Oklahoma Department of Agri-Services' team is excited about seeing all NAIA members in October 2026 for the Annual Conference!



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin and Governor Glenn Youngkin present the fifth 2025 Spirit of Virginia Award to the James River Horse Foundation on July 31, 2025. *Official photo by Shealah Craighead.*

First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin and Governor Glenn Youngkin Announce Fifth **2025 Spirit of Virginia Award Recipient**

GOOCHLAND, VA — Thursday, Governor Glenn Youngkin and First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin presented the fifth Spirit of Virginia Award of 2025 to the James River Horse Foundation at the State Farm Correctional Facility in Goochland, Virginia. The foundation was recognized for its program that rehabilitates retired racehorses while providing valuable training and life skills to incarcerated women preparing for re-entry into society.

Since 2007, the James River Horse Foundation has operated an accredited program that partners with the Virginia Department of Corrections to care for and retrain retired Thoroughbred racehorses. The

program currently maintains a herd of 24 off-track thoroughbreds and has successfully worked with more than 80 horses throughout its history. The initiative provides nonviolent female felons with hands-on training in equine care and management, teaching them valuable skills such as compassion, problem-solving, work ethic, and teamwork that support successful community re-entry.

“At the heart of the James River Horse Foundation is a belief in dignity, purpose, and the power of second chances,” said First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin. “This program nurtures both horse and human, offering healing, skill-building, and hope for a brighter path

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

forward. It is an honor to recognize a Virginia-based initiative that so meaningfully invests in restoration and renewal - for women, for animals, and for our communities.”

“The James River Horse Foundation represents the very best of Virginia’s spirit of innovation and compassion,” said Governor Glenn Youngkin. “This remarkable program demonstrates how we can address multiple challenges simultaneously, providing sanctuary for retired racehorses while offering incarcerated women meaningful opportunities to develop job skills and rebuild their lives.”

The program has proven to be highly effective in supporting successful re-entry, with participants in career and technical education programs showing a recidivism rate of just 12%, compared to Virginia’s overall rate of 20.6%. Upon completing the training, participants are qualified to work in the

equine industry and carry forward the confidence, responsibility, and skills they have developed through their work with the horses.

“At the heart of the James River Horse Foundation is a belief in dignity, purpose, and the power of second chances,” said First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin.

“I acquired a unique set of management skills that will productively impact my life forever,” said former participant in the James River Horse Foundation program Rebecca Owens. “We were not just working on the farm, we were working on ourselves and took just as much care of each other, as we did of the horses. This experience ignited a passion for peer work which I now pursue as my career at Radford

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First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin and Governor Glenn Youngkin, with participants of the James River Horse Foundation on July 31, 2025. Official photo by Shealah Craighead.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin and Governor Glenn Youngkin during the fifth 2025 Spirit of Virginia Award honoring the James River Horse Foundation on July 31, 2025. *Official photo by Shealah Craighead.*

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University working in the collegiate recovery community.”

“The James River Horse Foundation is so very proud and grateful to receive this wonderful 2025 Spirit of Virginia Award from Governor and First Lady Youngkin,” said President of the James River Horse Foundation Janis Paiva. “Their invaluable recognition and support of our public-private partnership with the Virginia Department of Corrections enables us to continually expand our mission of rescuing off-the-track Thoroughbreds to be rehabilitated and either retrained for new careers or provided lifetime sanctuary in a safe and caring environment. The key to accomplishing this mission is the equine educational program which trains female participants from the State Farm Work Center to care, not only for the horses in the program, but for each other. Our program teaches them to pull together respectfully as a team and develop leadership and other skills that will contribute to their future success as they move forward to rejoin their families and their communities as compassionate and hardworking citizens. We

are so appreciative of the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our horses and the women who care for them.”

“The James River Horse Foundation represents the very best of Virginia’s spirit of innovation and compassion,” said Governor Glenn Youngkin.

“The James River Horse Foundation was honored to welcome Governor and First Lady Youngkin to our barn at the State Farm Work Center in Goochland County today,” said Past President of the James River Horse Foundation Debby Dunham. “Through our partnership with the VA DOC, we are able to rescue former racehorses and use them in an equine education program for selected inmates. While the program curriculum focuses on equine care and stable management, it also helps participants build valuable life skills such as teamwork, time management,

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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responsibility and problem solving that the women will carry with them when they return to their families and communities. “This unique public-private partnership allows us to make a difference in the lives of both the horses and the women in our program. We were proud to share our story with the Governor and First Lady and grateful to the many guests who joined us to celebrate the momentous occasion. We are deeply honored to receive the Spirit of Virginia Award in recognition of our mission.”

The James River Horse Foundation is a non-profit organization accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance. The Foundation’s mission is to provide humane care, safe sanctuary, and appropriate second careers for Thoroughbred horses no longer able to race, while simultaneously offering valuable training opportunities that prepare women for successful community reintegration.

The award highlights unique contributions and achievements across the Commonwealth and honors those who make extraordinary impacts in various sectors, from private industry and education to culture, the arts, and philanthropy.

Special thanks to Kenny Raiford, VADOC Agribusiness Operations Director for sharing this article. VADOC Agribusiness Operations work directly with the Women’s Work Center at State Farm Correctional Center to facilitate this program. The recidivism numbers definitely demonstrate the value and impact this joint venture is creating, one future at a time.



First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin and Governor Glenn Youngkin with a replica of the James River Horse Foundation barn before the award ceremony on July 31, 2025. Official photo by Shealah Craighead.



First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin and Governor Glenn Youngkin before the fifth 2025 Spirit of Virginia Award ceremony honoring the James River Horse Foundation on July 31, 2025. Official photo by Shealah Craighead.

South Carolina DAILY GAZETTE

SC prison's vertical farming program gets grant to help pay inmates

Part of the \$97,000 will pay inmates stipends, and part will hire a manager to help get recently released women into jobs

BY: SKYLAR LAIRD



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AmplifiedAg's vertical farms, grown in recycled shipping containers, grow lettuce in water instead of soil. Similar modules will be placed at Camille Graham women's prison later this year. (Provided/AmplifiedAg)

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

COLUMBIA — Beginning next month, inmates at South Carolina's women's prison will be able to receive agricultural training and a stipend upon release with the help of a statewide grant program.

The South Carolina philanthropy [Power:Ed](#) announced a \$97,000 grant this month to the nonprofit [Impact Justice](#), which is working with the state Department of Corrections to run the agricultural program at the state's prison for women.

Beyond growing an expected 48,000 pounds of lettuce each year for the prison's kitchens, the program is meant to train women in the fast-growing field of hydroponics, which means growing plants in water instead of soil, to help them get jobs soon after leaving prison.

Starting July 7, between 15 and 20 women incarcerated at Camille Griffin Graham Correctional Institution will begin a five-month course on food safety, agricultural technology and hydroponics, both in a classroom and through hands-on work, said Kelly Danner, who leads the program for California-based Impact Justice.

"Savings that meet basic needs, like housing, food, and support for children is the key to reentry success for women and enables a successful job placement and retention," Gibbons said.

The first group of women will start work at an existing prison greenhouse while construction continues on the eight containers that will house the prison's vertical farms. With \$350,000 in state money and \$850,000 from a private donation, the prison system got the initial go-ahead on the project in 2023.

The 9-foot-tall, 8-foot-wide containers should be ready for use this fall, Danner said. Once a woman who has completed the program leaves prison, she

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will receive a \$1,450 stipend for the training she's already completed. That will equate to receiving the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 for an estimated 200 hours of work she did while in prison.

That "should hopefully be a meaningful amount to help get them on their feet when they're released," Danner said.

A job using the skills each woman learned while incarcerated will hopefully be soon to follow, as a program manager coordinates with local agricultural businesses to help find the women steady employment, Danner said.

The grant, which was part of the \$1 million Power:Ed distributes annually, will help cover the stipends, the program manager's pay and food safety certifications for women in the program, said Claire Gibbons, executive director of Power:Ed, which is based in Columbia.

[Impact Justice](#), through its Growing Justice program, will also help coordinate transportation, child care and housing for women in the program to ensure they're able to get to work, Danner said.

"It's not enough for us to offer robust training and place them in jobs if then they can't sustain those jobs," Danner said.

The ultimate goal is to keep the women from reoffending and going back to prison, as can often be the case when a person with no safety net leaves prison and finds themselves right back where they were before, if not worse off, Danner said.

That was a key reason [Power:Ed](#) decided to help fund the program. As the philanthropy arm of [SC Student Loan Corp.](#), [Power:Ed](#) looks for programs that bolster access to education and pathways to employment, which this program does, Gibbons said.

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“Savings that meet basic needs, like housing, food, and support for children is the key to reentry success for women and enables a successful job placement and retention,” Gibbons said in a news release. “We hope it will become a workforce development model that can be replicated across South Carolina.”

The one-year grant from [Power:Ed](#) will help cover the costs for [Impact Justice](#), which currently has enough money to fund the program for at least three years.

South Carolina already touts a low re-incarceration rate for recently released prisoners. Fewer than 1 in 5 inmates return to prison within three years of release, which is the lowest among states that report three-year recidivism rates, according to an annual report from Virginia’s prisons agency.

“It’s not enough for us to offer robust training and place them in jobs if then they can’t sustain those jobs,” Danner said.

State prison officials have credited the state’s job training and work programs with playing a large part in helping reduce its re-incarceration rates.

Among those are other agricultural programs that teach inmates to train horses, milk dairy cows, tend row crops and harvest honey.

California-based [Impact Justice](#) is working to establish a similar program at a prison in Chowchilla, California, by the end of the year. Also in the works is a growing program to train people who have recently been released from prison in vertical farming, according to its website.

South Carolina’s program will be the first vertical farm on a prison’s campus in the country, state officials have said.

While the state offers other job training and reentry programs for inmates, [Impact Justice’s](#) goal is to create a more comprehensive service that could potentially expand to other prisons across both the state and the country, Danner said.

“Growing Justice is really a triple win,” said Alex Busansky, founder and president of [Impact Justice](#), in a news release. “We’re equipping incarcerated women with the skills they need to thrive in a high-tech environment, seeding the South Carolina job market with new, qualified talent and delivering fresh produce to prison kitchens that typically lack access to locally grown fruits and vegetables.”



MEMBER UPDATES

SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS

One main focus of NAIA is the continual advancement of our profession. We value the importance of individuals seeking careers in agribusiness. We look for ways to recognize those individuals by offering opportunities to provide scholarships to applicants that meet the established criteria.

Scholarships are awarded to individuals sponsored by NAIA members who are either a part time or full time student pursuing a bachelor's or graduate degree.

For submissions and questions, contact:

Amy Pataluna - Executive Director
National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA)

E: apataluna@nationalcia.org

Submission period has ended.

The Executive Board of Directors are in the process of screening all applicants.

The recipients will be notified prior to the Annual Conference.

Scholarship Winners will be announced at the Fall National Conference during the Awards Banquet.

SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS BILLY MAX MOORE AWARD NOMINATIONS

Billy Max Moore Award nominations are in. The Executive Board of Directors are in the process of screening all applicants. The Billy Max Moore Award Winner will be announced at the Fall National Conference during the Awards Banquet.

For submissions and questions, contact: Kenny Raiford

Email: john.raiford@vadoc.virginia.gov

Mail: 14545 Old Belfield Road, Capron, VA 23829

Phone: (757) 335-0750

Visit: <https://naiaweb.com/> (application located in the "Membership" section)

NOW OFFERING GROUP MEMBERSHIPS!

Our goal is to allow individuals and organizations to receive as much access as possible.

- Individuals - \$20/year
- 10 Members - \$195/year
- 15 Members - \$290/year
- 20 Members - \$385/year
- 25 Members - \$480/year
- 30 Members - \$575/year

Member benefits include:

1. Quarterly newsletters (electronic and printed)
2. Member email communications
3. Networking opportunities within the organization
4. Training opportunities within NAIA and NCIA



WE WOULD LOVE TO FEATURE YOUR ARTICLE IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Have an interesting story to share or a topic you would like to see featured in the newsletter?

We would love to hear from you!

For article submissions, please email Amy Pataluna: apataluna@nationalcia.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS



At CattleCon, you'll discover a unique and comprehensive experience that brings together education, networking, business opportunities, advocacy, and fun for the whole family, all under one roof. Join us at CattleCon, the ultimate destination where the beef industry meets to learn, connect, grow, and enjoy.

Official Housing and Registration for CattleCon is only available through the [CattleCon website](#). You can stick to our @cattlecon social channels for all official updates. Beware of scammers, and please report any suspicious activity.

Future CattleCon dates:

February 3-5, 2026 - Nashville, Tennessee at Music City Center

February 2-4, 2027 - Nashville, Tennessee

February 1-3, 2028 - New Orleans, Louisiana

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2026

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**DISCUSSIONS
AND INSIGHTS**



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ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Future Conference Sites

YEAR	WINTER CONFERENCE DATE & CITY		CONGRESS OF CORRECTION DATE & CITY	
2025	Friday to Tuesday January 10-14	Orlando Convention Center and Hyatt	Friday to Tuesday August 21-26	Denver, CO 155th
2026	Thursday to Sunday February 5-8	Long Beach, CA	Thursday to Sunday July 28 - August 3	Pittsburgh, PA 156th
2027	Thursday to Sunday January 7-10	Phoenix, AZ	Thursday to Sunday August 19-22	Columbus, OH 157th
2028	Thursday to Sunday January 13-16	San Antonio, TX	Thursday to Sunday August 3-6	Salt Lake City, UT 158th
2029	TBD	TBD	Thursday to Sunday August 2-5	Boston, MA 159th
2030	Thursday to Sunday January 24-27	Orlando Convention Center and Hyatt	TBD	TBD
2031	TBD	TBD	Thursday to Sunday July 28 - August 3	Baltimore, MD 161st
2032	TBD	TBD	Thursday to Sunday July 15-18	Nashville, TN 162nd
2033	TBD	TBD	Thursday to Sunday August 4-7	Pittsburgh, PA 163rd

**Subject to Change*



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Thank You
North Carolina Correction Enterprises



A division of the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction

NAIA extends our gratitude to North Carolina Correction Enterprises for their hard work and dedication in creating this publication.