



LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM *for* COOPERATIVES

AUGUST 17-18, 2026

K-State Alumni Center - Manhattan, KS

As a stakeholder in the cooperative system, you and others in your organization, are invited to attend the 2026 Leadership Symposium for Cooperatives. Together, the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) and the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC) have partnered to present this combined program, which will start on Monday afternoon, August 17th and go through lunch on Tuesday, August 18th.

On the first day, the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and the Kansas Cooperative Council will provide updates on education programs, research, and cooperative legislative initiatives. Then, we will hear from Mark Reardon, that will challenge attendees to think about Why What We Focus on Matters.

Day two will tackle relevant topics facing Kansas farmer cooperatives. The morning will start with an economic outlook from Scoular's Ankush Bhandari. Then a deep dive into Kansas water issues with insights from K-State's Dr. Jane Schuh, Dr. Micah Cameron-Harp, and Garden City Co-op CEO, Jeff Boyd. The day will conclude with a discussion on AI business use cases with Aaron Shew, Chief Technology Officer for Acres.

Who Should Attend? This educational program offers meaningful insights to anyone interested in cooperative issues, including co-op board members, management and employees. Others doing business with cooperatives, such as suppliers, attorneys, CPAs and financial partners will also benefit from attending.

The meeting registration deadline is August 4, 2026. Registration is \$195 per person and includes all materials, reception cocktails, lunch and breaks.

You may register using the attached form or on-line: <https://acc.k-state.edu/LeadershipSymposiumRegistrationForm.html>. Additional conference information, including hotel registration deadlines, may be found on the enclosed documents. Please note, attendees are responsible for making any necessary lodging arrangements.

We look forward to seeing you August 17th!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Plasse".

President/CEO

Kansas Cooperative Council



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian C. Biggs".

Professor & Director

Arthur Capper Cooperative Center





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AGENDA

All events will be held at the K-State Alumni Center in Manhattan, KS.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

- 2:30 pm **Registration Opens**
- 3:00 pm **Welcome and Organizational Updates**
Brian Briggeman, Professor and ACCC Director
Russell Plaschka, Kansas Cooperative Council
- 3:30 pm **Initiativitis©: Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Prescription**
Mark Reardon, Founder/CEO, Centerpointe Leadership
- 5:00 pm **Reception with Drinks and Hors d'oeuvres**



TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

- 8:00 am **Agricultural Economic Outlook**
Ankush Bhandari, Vice President Economic Research, Scoular
- 9:15 am **Break**
- 9:30 am **Water Resource Management: Perspectives from the Kansas Water Institute**
Dr. Jane Schuh, Associate Dean of Ag. Research and Graduate Programs & Director of the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station
Dr. Micah Cameron-Harp, Assistant Professor in Agricultural Economics
Jeff Boyd, CEO, Garden City Co-op
- 10:45 am **Break**
- 11:00 am **Practical AI Business Use Cases for your Cooperative**
Aaron Shew, Chief Technology Officer of Acres
- 12:00 pm **Lunch**
Lunch available at the meeting or to-go



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HOTEL INFORMATION

All attendees are responsible for their own lodging.

HOLIDAY INN AT THE CAMPUS:

- Group rate deadline is **July 26, 2026**.
- Group rate of \$109.95/night, plus tax, breakfast included.
 - Reserve rooms online [HERE](#)
 - Or Scan the QR Code
 - Reserve your hotel by phone:
 - 785-539-7531
 - Group ID = "SYM"



BLUEMONT HOTEL:



- Group rate deadline is **July 26, 2026**.
- Group rate of \$129/night, plus tax, breakfast included.
 - Reserve rooms online [HERE](#)
 - Reserve your hotel by phone:
 - 785-473-7091, press 0.
 - Group ID = 2026L260816-180325

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED FOR CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 8/4/25, INCLUDING NO-SHOWS.