

Agenda

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome & Overview of the ISA On-Farm Trial Network

Abigail Peterson, Director of Agronomy, Illinois Soybean Association

Learn how the Illinois Soybean Association's On-Farm Trial Network (OFTN) is connecting farmers with university experts to answer real-world agronomic questions through field-scale research. This session will provide an overview of OFTN's research approach, farmer partnerships, and current projects focused on cover crops, insect management, sulfur fertility, and double-crop production systems. Attendees will gain insight into how farmer-led research is generating practical recommendations that improve profitability, reduce risk, and support environmental stewardship across Illinois.

9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Soybean & Corn Management in Conservation Systems: Plot Tour

Jim Isermann, Independent Agronomist

Join Jim Isermann for a guided field tour exploring soybean and corn management within conservation-focused production systems. Participants will examine residue management and soil health practices while reviewing findings from long-term research conducted through partnerships with Precision Conservation Management (PCM). The discussion will highlight the impacts of cover crops on soil health, crop performance, nutrient management, and overall system resilience, while connecting research findings to practical on-farm applications.

10:15 – 10:25 a.m.

Break

10:25 – 11:10 a.m.

Maximizing Corn Nitrogen ROI: Evidence from On-Farm Research

Dr. John Jones, Assistant Professor of Agronomy & Soil Fertility Extension Specialist, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

In partnership with the Illinois Nutrient Research & Education Council (NREC), the University of Illinois, and the Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association (IFCA), this presentation highlights results from on-farm research focused on improving nitrogen management and maximizing return on investment for corn producers. Attendees will learn how regional nitrogen fertilizer recommendations are being refined through real-world field trials and how the principles of 4R Nutrient Stewardship—right source, rate, time, and place—can be integrated with system-level practices such as tillage, crop rotation, and cover cropping. Through adaptive nitrogen management strategies and economic risk analysis, participants will gain practical, data-driven approaches to improving profitability while managing agronomic and environmental risk.

ILLINOIS CROP
MANAGEMENT

FIELD DAY

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**

**FARM PROGRESS SHOW SITE
4275 E MOUND RD
DECATUR, IL 62526**

**BRINGING RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND
FARMER PARTNERSHIPS
TOGETHER.**



11:10 – 11:40 a.m.

Working Habitat: A Yield-Boosting Tool for Soybean Growers

Dallas Glazik, Illinois Precision Ag & Conservation Specialist, Pheasants Forever

Healthy habitat supports healthy crops. Join us to explore the science behind pollination, natural pest control by predatory insects, and the resources available to help farmers establish habitat that benefits both conservation and crop production.

11:40 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Insecticide ROI in Soybeans: Which Insect Pests Are Moving the Yield Needle?

Dr. Nick Seiter, Assistant Professor & Field Crops Entomologist, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Discussion focused on ongoing ISA-funded research into the returns provided by foliar and seed-applied insecticides in soybean, and the insect pests that are most likely to impact yield.

12:15 – 12:30 p.m.

Networking

Take time to visit with speakers, researchers, industry partners, and fellow attendees before lunch.

12:30 p.m.

Lunch

Enjoy lunch and continue conversations with fellow farmers, researchers, conservation professionals, and industry partners while reflecting on the day's key takeaways and opportunities for future collaboration.

Speaker Info 



Abigail Peterson

Director of Agronomy, Illinois Soybean Association

Abigail Peterson is the Director of Agronomy and a Certified Crop Adviser for the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA), overseeing research, demonstration, and education initiatives focused on increasing on-farm profitability and helping Illinois soybean farmers manage production risks. Working closely with university researchers, industry partners, conservation organizations, and farmers to identify and address emerging production challenges and opportunities across Illinois.

Jim Isermann

Independent Agronomist

Jim Isermann is an independent agronomist specializing in conservation and soil health practices. He currently serves as the Soil Health Specialist for the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership, the Project Lead for Precision Conservation Management's 5-Year Transition Program and provides support to the Illinois Soybean Association's On-Farm Trial Network. Isermann lives and farms near Streator, Illinois, where he raises corn, soybeans, and beef cattle.

Dr. John Jones

Assistant Professor of Agronomy & Soil Fertility Extension Specialist, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Jones develops tactics to better measure, monitor, and manage nutrients in Illinois and North Central U.S. cropping systems. His research and outreach efforts focus on profitable and sustainable nutrient use efficiency and reduce losses from croplands. His emphasis is on fertilizer and soil management, soil and plant analysis, precision agriculture technologies, and minimizing nitrogen and phosphorous management impacts on water quality.

Dallas Glazik

Illinois Precision Agriculture & Conservation Specialist, Pheasants Forever

Dallas Glazik is a Precision Agriculture & Conservation Specialist and Farm Bill Biologist with Pheasants Forever, working through a partnership between Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. In this role, he helps landowners evaluate conservation opportunities and assists in converting marginal cropland acres into high-quality wildlife habitat through Farm Bill conservation programs. Glazik lives and farms in Paxton, Illinois, where he raises corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, and other small grains while integrating data-driven management practices to improve both profitability and environmental stewardship.

Dr. Nick Seiter

Assistant Professor & Field Crops Entomologist, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Nick Seiter develops insect management recommendations for Illinois field crops, particularly corn and soybean production. He holds a Ph.D. in Entomology from Clemson University and both B.S. and M.S. degrees in Entomology from Purdue University. Prior to joining the University of Illinois in 2017, Seiter served as an Extension Entomologist with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, where he worked on insect pest management in soybean, cotton, grain sorghum, and corn.