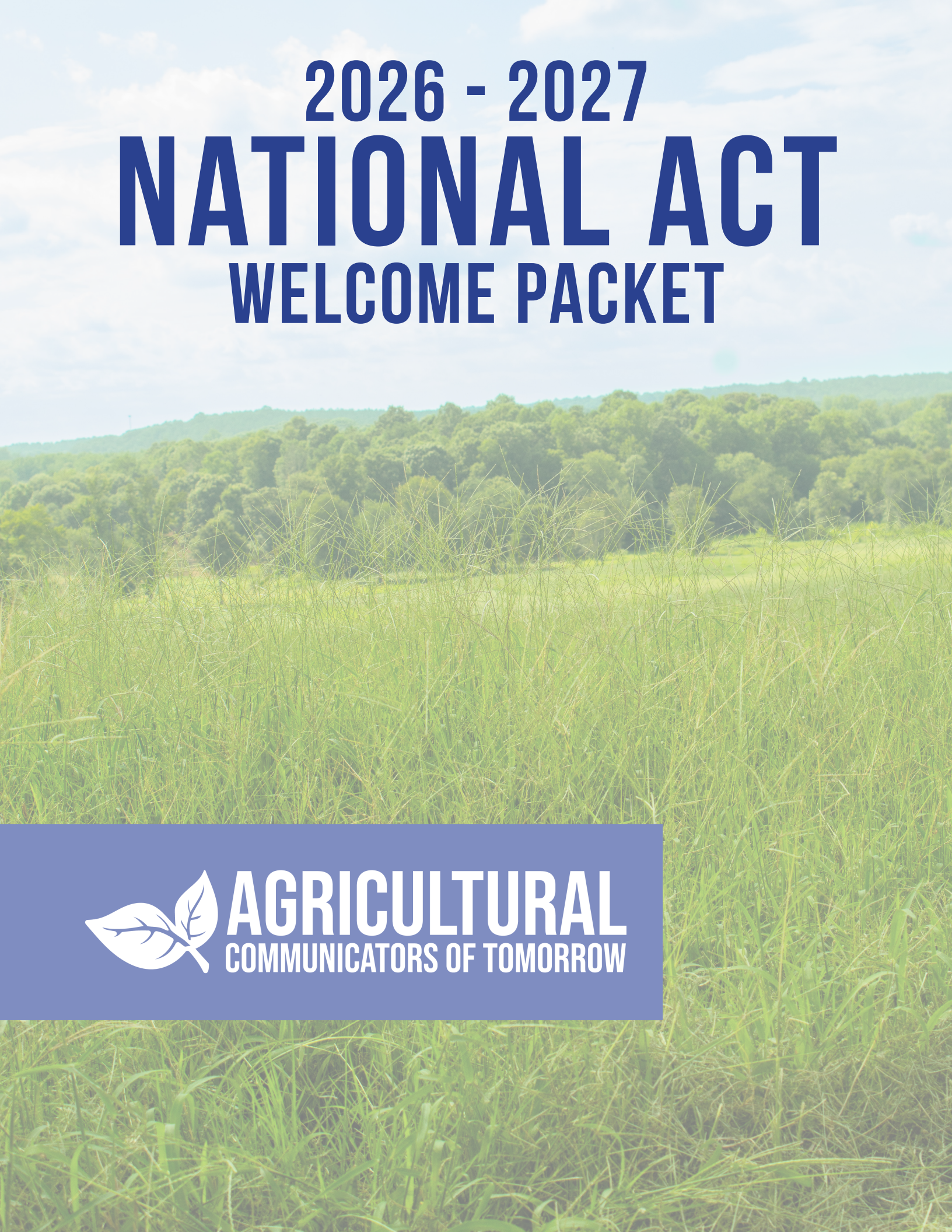
2026 - 2027
NATIONAL ACT
WELCOME PACKET



AGRICULTURAL
COMMUNICATORS OF TOMORROW

Letter from the President

Hello ACT Member!

If you're a returning member, we are so happy you're back, and if you're new to ACT, welcome!

ACT is more than a national organization. We are a community of collegiate students who share the same passion for telling the story of agriculture. As a member, you will have countless opportunities to grow as an individual and professional, such as building your résumé, expanding your professional network, sharpening your communication skills, and developing as a leader. Whether your passion is writing, photography, broadcasting, public relations, marketing, social media or graphic design, ACT has a place for you.

Each year, we have two in-person business meetings. The first is during the annual Professional Development Conference (commonly known as PDC), hosted by a different chapter each year. In January 2027, Texas Tech University will host PDC in Lubbock, Texas. The second business meeting happens at Ag Media Summit, an event hosted by the Agricultural Communications Network and the Livestock Publications Council, two of our partner organizations.

Although our biggest events happen in January and July, ACT is active year-round. From virtual professional development sessions and networking opportunities to contests, committee work, and member spotlights, you can stay engaged in countless ways no matter where you're attending school. One of our highlights is the annual Critique & Contest, a competition where members can submit their communications pieces, receive professional feedback, and potentially receive national recognition.

If I could offer a single recommendation, it would be this: Dive in. Take the initiative to meet a new peer at a meeting, enter into Critique & Contest, participate in our Monthly Photography Contest, or seek out an officer role. Many of my most cherished experiences and pivotal career openings resulted from being willing to step up, even when I felt slightly unprepared.

On behalf of the National ACT Officer Team, thank you for choosing to be part of ACT. We cannot wait to get to know you, celebrate your accomplishments, and help you grow throughout the coming year. If you have questions, ideas or simply want to connect, don't hesitate to reach out to any member of our officer team. We are here to serve you.

Sincerely,

Lydia Hill

2026-2027 National ACT President

Senior, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

MISSION

The Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) empowers collegiate students to excel in agricultural communications by providing professional development, hands-on experience, and networking opportunities. We connect academia, industry, and the public to prepare the next class of agricultural communicators.

VISION

Our vision is to be the leading collegiate organization in developing and strengthening agricultural communications students through professional growth opportunities and educational programs. We aim to inspire a future where innovative storytelling and strategic communications drive the growth and sustainability of the agricultural industry.

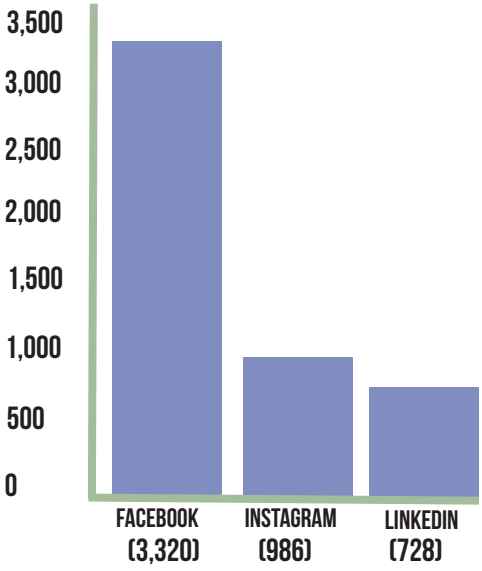
'25-'26 YEAR IN REVIEW

21 *Active Chapters*

490 *Active Members*

17 *States*

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS





’26-’27 NATIONAL ACT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Lydia Hill



From Marshville, North Carolina, Lydia Hill has always had a passion for the agricultural industry. Growing up on a cow/calf operation and around a family-owned business, she quickly understood the value of hard work and grit. In high school, she joined FFA and discovered her passion for leadership and advocacy.

Hill currently resides in Tifton, Georgia, where she attends Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. She is expected to graduate in May 2027 with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural communication and a minor in agribusiness. During her time as an undergrad, she has received various awards and held multiple leadership positions.

After graduation, she hopes to find a job and move westward to better understand how farming works outside the Southeast to become a well-versed individual in agriculture. Her favorite aspects of her major are public speaking, social media management and leadership opportunities. Hill’s goal is to utilize her creativity and leadership skills to advocate for agriculture, specifically the cattle industry.

VICE PRESIDENT

Maddie Weber



Maddie Weber is a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) double-majoring in agronomy and agricultural communications. As the fifth generation to be involved in her family’s corn and soybean operation in the Missouri River bottoms of St. Charles, Missouri, she has been immersed in agriculture from an early age.

Through her involvement in 4-H and FFA, Maddie discovered a passion for agricultural advocacy and developed a desire to pursue a career dedicated to telling agriculture’s story.

At UNL, Maddie has served as the treasurer, president and communications coordinator of ACT. In 2026, she was recognized as the National ACT Distinguished Member of the Year at the Ag Media Summit. Maddie is excited to showcase the talent and creativity of ACT members through this year’s National ACT Critique and Contest.

’26-’27 NATIONAL ACT OFFICERS

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Kelsey Miller



Kelsey Miller is a senior Agricultural Leadership, Communications and Education major at the University of Missouri–Columbia. She also is pursuing a minor in agribusiness management. Originally from Jonesburg, Missouri, Miller grew up heavily involved in agriculture through 4-H and FFA, where she developed a passion for agricultural leadership, communications and advocacy.

At Mizzou, Miller stays involved as president of the Mizzou ACT Chapter, a member of Block and Bridle and of Collegiate Cattlewomen. She previously served as a Missouri FFA State Vice President and continues to pursue opportunities in agricultural communications through photography, videography and storytelling. Outside of campus involvement, Kelsey owns Turquoise K Media, where she specializes in capturing agriculture, livestock and western lifestyles.

Kelsey hopes to pursue a career where she can combine her background in agriculture with her passion for photography, media and storytelling. She is excited to connect with members and industry professionals from across the country and help strengthen communication and engagement within the organization.

MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Ellie Hert



Ellie Hert is a junior at Texas A&M University, studying agricultural communications and journalism and agricultural leadership and development. She is from a small town in the Texas hill country, called San Saba, and has grown up raising and showing market steers and breeding heifers through FFA.

This year, Ellie will serve as the Texas A&M ACT President. Outside of ACT, she is involved in the Kappa Phi Beta Christian Sisterhood, where she serves as historian and Bible study leader, and the Texas A&M Collegiate Farm Bureau.

Ellie is excited to get to know each ACT member this year and make meaningful connections within the agricultural industry.

’26-’27 NATIONAL ACT OFFICERS

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Riley Stockman



Riley Stockman is a senior agricultural communication major at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Originally from Chiefland, Florida, Riley’s passion for agriculture began in middle school when she joined FFA and started showing pigs. Throughout high school, she became actively involved in FFA, competing in and attending events at the state and national levels.

Riley discovered her passion for agricultural communications when she picked up a camera in high school. She has now grown her own photography and media business, focusing on agriculture, livestock shows and rodeos. She has also worked with multiple agricultural organizations to create content that tells their stories.

At ABAC, Riley serves as an Ambassador and as ABAC ACT vice president of fundraising and merchandise. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in agricultural photo and video production with interests in social media marketing, visual storytelling and graphic design. Riley is excited to serve and connect with ACT members.

EXECUTIVE ADVISER

Dr. Shelly Legg



Shelly Peper Legg grew up on her family’s cow-calf and hay operation near Adair, Oklahoma. After excelling in 4-H and FFA communications areas, she enrolled at Oklahoma State University. She earned a bachelor’s degree in agricultural communications and a master’s degree in agricultural education before becoming a media specialist in Northeast Oklahoma. She returned to OSU as an academic adviser and instructor, earning her doctorate in agricultural education in 2000 and earning the rank of professor during her 33-years of teaching and advising agricultural communications students.

In her retirement, she has served as a part-time adjunct professor at OSU and at New Mexico State University in addition to serving as the National ACT executive adviser and executive treasurer. She also is involved in her church and its activities. She and her husband, John, have four adult sons and raise cattle and sheep on their land north of Stillwater, Oklahoma.

CHARTERED CHAPTER LIST

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College*
California Polytechnic State University,
San Luis Obispo*
Chico State University
Conners State College
Iowa State University*
Kansas State University*
Louisiana State University
Mississippi State University*
Missouri State University*
New Mexico State University
North Dakota State Univerity
Oklahoma State University*
Oregon State University
Purdue University*
Sam Houston State University
South Dakota State University*
Tarleton State University*
Tennessee State University*
Texas A&M University*
Texas Tech University*
The Ohio State University*
University of Arkansas*
University of Florida
University of Florida-Plant City
University of Georgia
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*
University of Missouri*
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities*
University of Nebraska – Lincoln*
Utah State University
Virginia Tech University*
Wayne State University
West Texas A&M University*
Wilmington College*

* Active Chapter

WHY BE A *Member?*

- **Being a member of the National ACT organization offers special opportunities and, like most organizations, you get out of ACT what you put in.**
- **Opportunity for professional development and networking.**
  Members can participate in two national business meetings each year: one at Ag Media Summit and the second at the National ACT Professional Development Conference. Both events allow members to meet fellow ACT members from across the nation as well as industry professionals and faculty members.
- **Eligibility for the National ACT monthly photography contest.**
  Monthly and annual winners receive cash prizes.
- **Eligibility for the NEW National ACT Representative Program.**
  Think like a National ACT Student Council! A program flyer with details is part of this packet.
- **Eligibility to enter your work in the annual National ACT Critique & Contest.**
  With six divisions and 28 categories in each, you can find a place for any communications project, and you receive feedback from industry professionals on your work.
- **Join a conversation through ACT Connect.**
  The National ACT officers are ready to chat with members and chapters through this NEW program. See the packet flyer for details.
- **Opportunity to earn national recognition for your work on the local chapter level.**
  Each year, National ACT recognizes distinguished contributions among its members, alumni, professionals, and chapter advisers.
- **Easy access to internships and scholarships through the National ACT website.**
  In addition to posting opportunities via social media, National ACT provides specific information about opportunities with links to applications.
- **Special rates and opportunities with National ACT partner professional organizations.**
  Find information about some of the opportunities in this packet.
- In addition, active ACT chapters can apply for Jim Evans Professional Development Funding. Email the National ACT adviser at nact.adviser@gmail.com for more information.

ACT

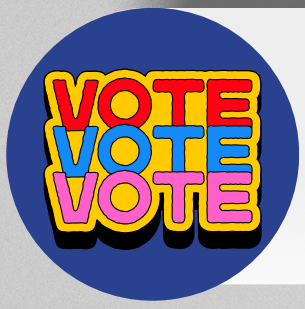
Monthly Photography Contest



NEW $50 CASH PRIZE & CERTIFICATE
STARTING IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER



FREE FOR ANY ACT MEMBER TO ENTER



ACT MEMBERS WILL VOTE ON THE WINNER.
WINNER WILL BE FEATURED ON NATIONAL ACT SOCIALS.



THE PHOTO DOESN'T HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN THE MONTH
IT IS SUBMITTED & YOU CAN SUBMIT MULTIPLE
PHOTOS EACH MONTH



SUBMIT YOUR
PHOTOS HERE

COMING SOON ...

Critique and Contest

Critique & Contest is the national communications and journalism competition for ACT members. It gives students the opportunity to have their work evaluated by communications professionals and compete against ACT members from across the country. With opportunities spanning writing, publications, electronic media, photography, design, public relations and more, Critique & Contest is a chance to put your communications skills to the test and receive valuable professional feedback.

2026-27 CHANGES

COST: $3 PER INDIVIDUAL ENTRY – $10 PER MAGAZINE ENTRY

TIMELINE: ENTRIES ACCEPTED NOV 1, 2026 – MAY 15, 2027

CATEGORIES: 6 REMOVED AND 5 MODIFIED.

PAYMENT DUE: ENTRY FEES & DUES MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 30, 2027, TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE.

SWEEPSTAKES: A NEW SWEEPSTAKES AWARD REPLACES THE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE.

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATORS OF TOMORROW

National ACT

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

LEADERSHIP ➤ INITIATIVE ➤ NETWORKING

We are excited to give our members and chapters an opportunity to serve on our first team of National Reps! This program provides members a chance to be a voice for their chapters and grow as young professionals.

ACT

Here are the Basics:

- Each chapter will select its Rep through its own process.
- Every Rep must be an active, dues-paying member.
- Term Length: October 2026 - Ag Media Summit 2027
- Onboarding Call: Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. Central Time
- Chapters must submit their Rep.'s name and contact info by Oct. 9, 2026, to Kelsey Miller, secretary/treasurer.

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO

Introducing ACT Connect: A new opportunity for National ACT chapters and members to connect with the National Officer team virtually!

ACT Connect



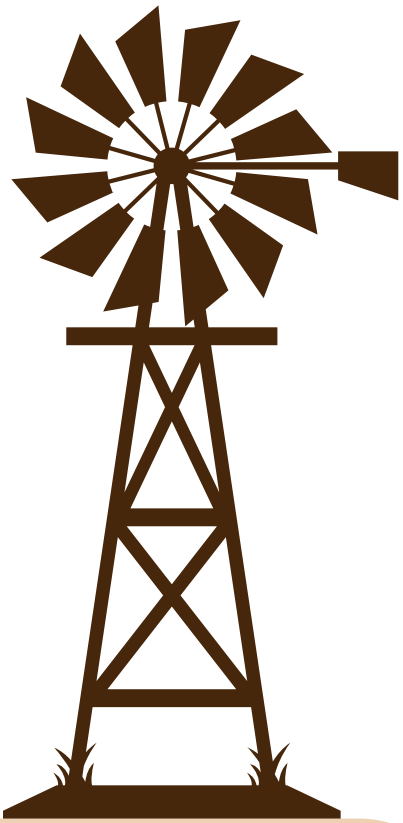
Scan the QR code to learn more and schedule a meeting!



National ACT Professional Development Conference

Endless Horizons

Exploring opportunities across the agricultural communications landscape



Jan. 14-16, 2027

Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas

Mark your calendars for a weekend packed with educational workshops, networking opportunities, career exploration and fun!

Additional information coming soon!

Hotel

Hyatt Place Lubbock
2309 Mac Davis Lane
806-741-0200

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS
TEXAS TECH
Davis College

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATORS OF TOMORROW

START YOUR

Livestock Media Career

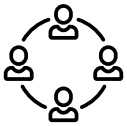
LIVESTOCK
PUBLICATIONS COUNCIL

Why Join LPC?

The livestock communications industry needs its next generation of storytellers. LPC connects students with mentors, opportunities and skills to build a career in livestock communications, all for $35 a year.

Member Benefits

Networking



A sense of community is built through relationships with other livestock communicators, the exchange of ideas and beneficial connections through mentorships, internships and scholarships.

01

Member Directory



Access the LPC membership directory and connect with professionals across the livestock communications industry.

02

Coffee and Collaboration



A monthly webinar hosted by LPC bringing how-to tips on topics relevant to livestock communicators. Learn new skills, refresh old ones and get inspired.

03

Professional Development



Apply for the Forrest Bassford Student Award, LPC's premier honor recognizing excellence in student livestock communications, and participate in student-only contests.

04

LPC Link



The monthly digital newsletter keeps readers informed of LPC events and activities, features tips and tricks and helps foster connections between members.

05

Events



Join fellow communicators at the annual Ag Media Summit each summer, plus hands-on Regional Workshops. Student members receive special student-only pricing.

06

Your career in livestock communications starts here.
Join LPC today and grow alongside the industry's brightest storytellers.

JOIN HERE FOR ONLY $35 PER YEAR!

PO Box 446, Springtown, TX 76082
www.livestockpublications.com
execdirector@livestockpublications.com

ACN
Agricultural Communicators Network

GROW YOUR PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS

ACN is the premier professional organization for communicators across the spectrum of ag media – from editors, writers and photojournalists to designers and PR professionals

Join as a student member for FREE to the first 50 students, thanks to Alltech. Use code AlltechStudent

Alltech®

Upcoming Opportunities

ACN Student Membership / Mentorship
Join ACN as a student member (free to the first 50, thanks to Alltech!) to access an exclusive mentorship program. Join at agcommnetwork.com using code AlltechStudent

Speakers Bureau
Need an ag comm professional to talk to your ACT chapter or ag comm class? Email Courtney Girgis at cllgirgis@gmail.com for the ACN Speakers Bureau list.

Fall 2026 Regional Workshop: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, at Farm Journal Headquarters in Kansas City
Student pricing: $50 in-person (Code STUDENT-IN) or $25 virtual (Code STUDENT-VT)

“All About ACN” Webinar, 5:30-6:30 p.m. CST Thursday, Dec. 3
Free and open to all students, ag comm faculty and professionals who want to learn about ACN and how to get more involved.

Academic Scholarship Applications Open Feb. 1 - April 15
Finalists will receive travel stipends to attend and interview for the top award, the Dr. James Evans Scholarship, at Ag Media Summit, July 25-28, 2027, in Omaha, Nebraska.

Spring 2027 Regional Workshop to be held in Des Moines area

Find details and register at www.agcommnetwork.com or email Courtney Girgis, cllgirgis@gmail.com, and Olivia Hoots, olivia@illinoisbeef.com, Future Ag Communicators Committee co-chairs.

CONNECT. CREATE. ACHIEVE.

Cooperative Communicators Association (CCA) is an organization of professionals who communicate for cooperatives. Our organization is unique in both its mission and membership. We work toward helping members excel in communications – from writing, photography, and editing to video, layout, and design. Just as important, we emphasize ideas and strategies aimed at making communications more successful for cooperatives. We understand cooperatives have a slightly different story to tell. And we appreciate the role communications plays in contributing to the success of the cooperative.

The Cooperative Communicators Association exists:

To improve the effectiveness of all cooperative communicators;

To advance professional standards of cooperative communicators;

To afford interchange of facts, research, techniques, and opinions among cooperative communicators;

To conduct an annual institute and other programs suitable to meeting the purpose of the association;



communicators.coop

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP IN NAFB

Creating the future of farm broadcasting



About NAFB

Now more than ever, agriculture needs to invest in future leaders who will shape the industry.

The National Association of Farm Broadcasting and the NAFB Foundation are committed to investing in the future leaders who will shape the ag industry. For those studying ag communications, a student membership in NAFB provides a valuable connection to farm broadcasters, allied industry and other ag influencers.

It's also a ticket to other great benefits to help with professional growth through ongoing educational programming and our mentorship program.

Annual Convention

Join us each November in Kansas City for an opportunity to network and develop your professional skills. Apply to be a member of our Social Media Corps and grow your portfolio!

Webinars

You'll be invited to regular opportunities throughout the year to grow your understanding of the ag industry and the role of communications in it.

Scholarships

Each year, the NAFB Foundation offers multiple college scholarships to students majoring in ag communications entering their junior, senior or grad school year. See the website for more details.

Internships

The NAFB Foundation provides yearly internship grants to member stations and networks that help them host interns each summer. Students are encouraged to contact their local farm broadcaster about internship opportunities.

Learn More

Go to our website at nafb.com to learn more about how your $25 membership (valid throughout your college career and for one year after) can benefit you and your career.

North American Agricultural Journalists

North American Agricultural Journalists is a professional, international group of agricultural editors and writers with a membership spanning the United States and Canada. The organization was formed in 1952 to promote the highest ideals of journalism and agricultural news coverage.

Our full membership offerings include the following:

- Networking with fellow ag writers and influential industry stakeholders;
- Periodic newsmaker events featuring experts on timely topics;
- Newsletter updates including exclusive job openings; and
- Professional recognition in our annual writing contest.

Membership also includes an opportunity to attend NAAJ's three-day Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in April. The event includes a full day of panel discussions involving USDA top officials and influential stakeholders at the prestigious and historic Cosmos Club, an evening awards reception, and press conferences on Capitol Hill with top House and Senate agricultural leaders.

Those eligible for membership include journalists in North America who report or edit agricultural news for newspapers, magazines, online publications, wires and syndicated services who are independent of agricultural organizations and businesses. Students interested in a career in agricultural writing also are encouraged to join.

Student memberships are $10 per calendar year and include access to all of NAAJ's offerings.

Check out our website at naaj.net or email us at naajnews@yahoo.com.

2026 SPONSORS

BRONZE SPONSORS:

DEARINGER'S OF STILLWATER - $100
AMERICAN HORSE PUBLICATION - $200
SHELLY RICHARDSON RAMSEY (FORMER NATIONAL ACT OFFICER) - $250
AGCAREERS - $250
HOARD'S DAIRYMAN - $250

SILVER SPONSORS:

NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY - $350

GOLD SPONSORS:

GROWMARK, INC. - $500
INSPIRE PR GROUP - $500
NATIONAL PORK PRODUCERS COUNCIL - $600

PLATINUM SPONSORS:

PASTURE MANAGEMENT - $1,000
HART COUNTRY MEATS - $1,000
ACN PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION GRANT FOR $5,000

Thank You, Sponsors!



KEEP IN TOUCH

@NATIONAL_ACT

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATORS OF TOMORROW

NACT.PRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM

LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST!

THE ACTUAL STORY IS AVAILABLE ON SPOTIFY AND YOUTUBE. SEASON 2, HOSTED BY ELLIE HERT, WILL RELEASE ON SEPT. 30!

THE ACTUAL STORY