Cornell Dairy Foods Center Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 1 & Thursday, April 2, 2026

Stocking Hall, Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

All sessions in the PepsiCo Auditorium unless otherwise indicated

9:30 am	Optional tour: the Cornell Food Venture Center, Geneva, NY *Tour participants should meet at the Collier Drive lobby entrance to the Center*	
10:00 am	*Registration opens*	*Stocking Gallery*
10:30 am	Optional tour: Food Processing and Development Laboratory *Tour participants should meet at the Stocking Gallery registration desk*	
11:00 am	Optional tour: Food Processing and Development Laboratory *Tour participants should meet at the Stocking Gallery registration desk*	
11:30 am	Optional gallery tour: The Cornell Dairy Processing Plant *Tour participants should meet at the Stocking Gallery registration desk*	
1:00 pm	Welcome and conference overview	Nicole Martin
1:15 pm	Consumer Insights and 2026 Trends	Rohit Kapoor & Stephanie Ropiak (DMI)
2:00 pm	"Challenges with testing dairy products for *Bacillus cereus* and setting meaningful specifications"	Martin Wiedmann
2:30 pm	"Enzymatic Valorization of Waste Lactose into High-Value Ingredients"	Julie Goddard
3:00 pm	Ice cream social and research ideation	*PepsiCo Auditorium & Gallery*
3:45 pm	"Best practices at the farm to ensure high quality milk"	Nicole Martin
4:15 pm	"Development of Free Fatty Acids throughout the dairy continuum"	Dave Barbano
4:45 pm	Research topic	Syed Rizvi
5:15 pm	Day 1 Wrap up; *transition to poster session*	Nicole Martin
5:30 pm	Graduate Student Poster Session; Networking Reception *Stocking Conference Center & Gallery*	
7:00 pm	*Day 1 Adjourn*	

Thursday, April 2, 2026		
All sessions in the PepsiCo Auditorium unless otherwise indicated		
8:15 am	*Registration, continental breakfast*	*Stocking Gallery*
8:30 am	Welcome; Day 1 recap	Nicole Martin
8:35 am	Keynote Address "The Integrated Dairy Ecosystem: Where Regional Collaboration Becomes Global Advantage"	Kathryn Boor
9:00 am	Research topic	Carmen Moraru
9:30 am	New Innovation Resources at the Food Processing and Development Laboratory, Cornell's Dairy Pilot Plant	Beth Chapin Sarah Haddid (FoodIQ) Vinay Indraganti (United Vision)
10:00 am	*Coffee break*	
10:15 am	Apprenticeships – Are They Right for your Business?	Kim Bukowski & Hannah Moyal
10:45 am	Supporting Graduate Student Dairy Entrepreneurs: The EntrA Assistantship Program	Gavin Sacks Matt Pataki Waritsara Khongkomolsakul
11:15 am	The Cornell Food Hackathon: Cultivating the Next Generation of Dairy Product Innovators	Rajni Aneja Yihong Deng Eva Ho
11:45 am	Conference Wrap Up; Looking Ahead to 2027	Nicole Martin
12:00 pm	*Adjourn*	

Registration Link: Please register at this link: *https://cals.cornell.edu/cornell-dairy-foods-center-conference*.

Parking:
The conference will be held in Stocking Hall at 411 Tower Road, Ithaca, NY 14853 (at the corner of Tower Road & Wing Drive). The closest parking option to Stocking Hall is the Peterson Lot (Lot 4122), across from the building on Tower Road (pay by cash at the meter or via the ParkMobile app). Because of its location by the Dairy Bar and Botanic Gardens, this lot can fill up early; the best alternative option is Lot 4108 (two blocks away on Campus Road; pay by ParkMobile only). Guidance on using the ParkMobile app and campus lot maps can be found at THIS LINK.

Hotel:
A conference block rate of $169/night is available at the Homewood Suites near the Ithaca airport (rate includes free Wi-Fi, daily breakfast, and parking). Rooms can be booked directly at THIS LINK.

The Statler Hotel (https://statlerhotel.cornell.edu/) is a 10-minute walk from Stocking Hall; please note that the hotel frequently has limited availability, and advance booking is strongly recommended. We suggest the Canopy by Hilton, Marriott Downtown, or Hilton Garden Inn (all located on or near the Ithaca Commons, a 10-minute drive from campus in the Ithaca Downtown area) as good alternatives.