

# Ag Innovation



Bringing new technology, knowledge and opportunity to agriculture.

**FEBRUARY 10, 2022 | 8:30AM - 4:15PM CST  
UNION STATION | KANSAS CITY, MO**

## Program...

- 8:00am Registration & Networking
- 8:30am Welcome: Dustin Johansen, Director, Business Development Enterprise Solutions, Farm Journal and Chairman, Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City  
Chelsea Good, Vice President, Government & Industry Affairs, Livestock Marketing Association
- 8:45am Keynote: Ben Johnson, Vice President of Programs, BioSTL "Agtech Innovation – Bridging Urban and Rural Economic Vitality"
- 9:15am Keynote: Dr. Parag Chitnis, Associate Director for Programs, National Institute for Food and Agriculture  
"Agriculture of the Future: People, Places, and Products"
- 9:45am Meeting Break
- 10:15am Panel: Geospatial Engineering, Automation & Digital Technology in Agriculture  
Leading equipment providers and technology experts will highlight cutting-edge efforts.  
Moderated by: Dr. Brad Fabbri, Chief Science Officer, TechAccel  
Panelists: Matt Olson, Manager, Precision Ag Go-to-Market, John Deere Agriculture & Turf Division  
Dr. Raj Khosla, Agronomy Department Head, Kansas State University  
Dallas Ford, Director Global Business Development, Sentera  
Dr. Tom Eickhoff, Chief Science Officer, The Climate Corporation and Digital Farming
- 11:45am Lunch Break
- 12:45pm Panel: Sustainable Agriculture  
Efforts to build more sustainable systems featuring local to global perspectives across a broad range of the food and agricultural spectrum.  
Moderated by: Amy Skoczlas Cole, Executive Vice President, Farm Journal  
Panelists: Michael Doane, Global Managing Director, Food & Freshwater Systems, The Nature Conservancy  
Dr. Sarah Lovell, Director, Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri  
Dr. Sara Place, Chief Sustainability Officer, Elanco Animal Health
- 1:45pm Keynote: Dr. Elena Rice, Chief Scientific Officer, Genus PLC "Healthier Animals, A More Sustainable Food System: The Promise of Gene Editing"
- 2:15pm Meeting Break
- 2:45pm Panel: Focus on Entrepreneurship  
Successful new-to-market concepts from entrepreneurs that encompass plant and animal agriculture and feature new platforms to enhance productivity.  
Moderated by: J.J. Jones, Co-Founder, Roots & Legacies  
Panelists: Kevin Johansen, Founder & CEO, Ag Butler  
Shekhar Gupta, Founder & CEO, MyAniML  
Ryan Raguse, Co-Founder & President, Bushel  
Dr. Martha Schlicher, Entrepreneur-in-Resident, BioGenerator  
Robert Forsythe, Co-Founder & CEO, Milk Movement
- 4:00pm Closing Remarks
- 4:15pm Reception
- 5:15pm Adjourn

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Business Council  
of Kansas City**

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# Featured Speakers...



**Ben Johnson, Vice President of Programs, BioSTL**

Ben is Vice President, Programs at BioSTL, where he leads its initiatives related to public policy, diversity/inclusion/equity, talent and workforce development, and fundraising. Since 2001, BioSTL has laid the foundation for St. Louis' innovation economy with a comprehensive set of transformational programs leveraging the region's medical and plant science strengths. Ben also serves as Chairman of the national Innovation Advocacy Council.



**Dr. Parag Chitnis, Associate Director for Programs, National Institute for Food and Agriculture**

Dr. Parag Chitnis leads strategic oversight and implementation of NIFA's programs, which invest \$1.75 billion for research and extension activities in food and agricultural sciences. Parag is located in Kansas City where he oversees the agency's staff and functions. He came to NIFA in 2015 as the Deputy Director for Institute of Food Production and Sustainability. Prior to joining NIFA, he was the Director for the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences at the National Science Foundation.



**Dr. Elena Rice, Chief Scientific Officer, Genus PLC**

Dr. Elena Rice joined Genus PLC, a world-leading animal genetics company, as Chief Scientific Officer in July 2019. At Genus, Elena is driving efforts to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of animal protein production through a portfolio of R&D projects and pioneering technologies. Prior to joining Genus, she spent 18 years within Monsanto and Bayer, where she was responsible for a pipeline spanning seeds, traits, and biological products (among others) across all phases of development. She has led the development and introduction of new genetic improvement technologies and nurtured a portfolio of gene editing projects.

# Panel Discussions...

## Geospatial Engineering, Automation & Digital Technology in Agriculture

*Leading equipment providers and technology experts will highlight cutting-edge efforts.*



**Moderated by: Dr. Brad Fabbri, Chief Science Officer, TechAccel**

Dr. Brad Fabbri serves as Chief Science Officer for TechAccel LLC, a Kansas City-based technology venture firm investing in scientific breakthroughs to produce healthier plants, animals, and foods. He previously worked for Monsanto Co. for 21 years, where he was appointed a science fellow and served in a variety of R&D roles, including seeking external innovation.



**Matt Olson, Manager, Precision Ag Go-to-Market, John Deere Agriculture & Turf Division**

Matt has worked in the Precision Agriculture business for 13 years. He is currently responsible for leading a team of marketing managers focused on marketing technology solutions to help farmers increase yields, decrease costs and increase the efficiency of the work they do through application of equipment and technology solutions.



**Dr. Raj Khosla, Agronomy Department Head, Kansas State University**

Prof. Raj Khosla is a globally recognized authority on Precision Agriculture. He has been engaged in precision agriculture since inception and has made significant contributions in the development and spread of Precision Agriculture worldwide. He is the Founder and Past-President of the International Society of Precision Agriculture.



**Dallas Ford, Director Global Business Development, Sentera**

An experienced leader in the agricultural industry, Dallas joined Sentera in October 2020 as Director of Global Business Development. Sentera's mission is to deliver time-sensitive agricultural insights that optimize decisions and improve outcomes.



**Dr. Tom Eickhoff, Chief Science Officer, The Climate Corporation and Digital Farming**

As Chief Science Officer, Tom leads the Science organization at The Climate Corporation, where he drives the company's research and development efforts in data science, modeling, sensing, and field research. The capabilities developed within the Science organization enable operational insights backed by the integration of vast amounts of real field data into Climate models.



## Sustainable Agriculture

*Efforts to build more sustainable systems featuring local to global perspectives across a broad range of the food and agricultural spectrum.*



**Moderated by: Amy Skoczlas Cole, Executive Vice President, Farm Journal**

At Farm Journal, Amy leads Trust in Food, a purpose-driven business accelerating the adoption of regenerative agriculture across the U.S., and America's Conservation Ag Movement, one of the largest and most diverse public-private partnerships in conservation agriculture's history.



**Michael Doane, Global Managing Director, Food & Freshwater Systems, The Nature Conservancy**

Michael leads a team of the organization's foremost experts to scale up conservation outcomes across productively managed farming, ranching and agroforestry landscapes.



**Dr. Sarah Lovell, Director, Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri**

Dr. Sarah Lovell serves as the H.E. Garrett Endowed Chair Professor and the Director for the Center for Agroforestry at University of Missouri. Sarah's research focuses broadly on the analysis and design of multifunctional landscapes, with emphasis on agroforestry and urban agriculture.



**Dr. Sara Place, Chief Sustainability Officer, Elanco Animal Health**

Dr. Place, an expert in livestock sustainability, serves on a team of scientific experts to identify new opportunities for improving sustainable business practices and operations, the well-being of animals and people impacted by Elanco, and to reduce its overall environmental footprint for protein production.

## Event Emcee...



**Chelsea Good, Vice President Government & Industry Affairs, Livestock Marketing Association**

Chelsea is a graduate of Washburn University School of Law. She also has bachelor's degrees in agricultural communications and journalism, political science, and public relations and a master's degree in communications studies, all from Kansas State University. Chelsea comes from a beef industry background and is passionate about agriculture.

## Focus on Entrepreneurship

*Successful new-to-market concepts from entrepreneurs that encompass plant and animal agriculture and feature new platforms to enhance productivity.*



**Moderated by: J.J. Jones, Co-Founder, Roots & Legacies**

J.J. is a strong leader in association management, communicating with various agriculture and food industry stakeholders and putting his passion for international agriculture to use in developing global markets for Roots & Legacies' clients.



**Kevin Johansen, Founder & CEO, Ag Butler**

The AgButler platform was borne from Kevin's experience as a day laborer on cattle operations across the country as he worked his way through college and young adulthood. His vision is to create a platform connecting agricultural communities and supplying a tool that can revitalize rural America.



**Shekhar Gupta, Founder & CEO, MyAnIML**

Shekhar is a serial entrepreneur with more than 20 years of experience building companies and products. He has over 80 patents and has a passion to solve a challenge using technology. He is currently working on developing MyAnIML, an early disease prediction solution for animals to help reduce the disease spread, lower treatment costs and deaths, and increase revenue.



**Ryan Raguse, Co-Founder & President, Bushel**

Since launching Bushel, an independently owned and operated software company in 2017, Bushel's software has powered 2,000+ grain facilities and reaches more than 60,000 farmers across the U.S. and Canada with real-time business information for their producers. Bushel is focused on bringing innovative software products and solutions to the agriculture value chain.



**Dr. Martha Schlicher, Entrepreneur-in-Resident, BioGenerator**

BioGenerator, part of BioSTL, is focused on investments in the Agri Food Tech space. Dr. Schlicher serves as the CEO of Impetus Agricultural Co. and Plastomics Inc., both BioGenerator portfolio early-stage agricultural companies. Martha has more than 30 years of global life sciences experience, predominately at Monsanto.



**Robert Forsythe, Co-Founder & CEO, Milk Movement**

Milk Movement is a SaaS startup founded in 2018 that is looking to provide actionable intelligence across the dairy supply chain. Rob recently brought the company through its seed round funding, raising \$3.2 million. Rob's vision is to modernize the dairy supply chain with Milk Movement's software and make the industry more sustainable, equitable and profitable for everyone.

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