

2026 Farm Journal Corn and Soybean College

July 21 and 22, 2026

The 4R Advantage in a Tight Market

The 4R's aren't just about good agronomy, they directly affect a farm's profitability, cost, and long-term sustainability.

Schedule at a Glance

Day 1

Tuesday, July 21

8:00 AM through Dinner

- Registration + Coffee & Donuts**
Doors open at 8:00 am
- 2 General Sessions**
Full-group deep dives on corn & soybeans
- Lunch Social**
Included with your ticket
- 3 Breakout Sessions**
Smaller groups, focused topics & field time
- Happy Hour & Dinner**
Included with your ticket, wind down, network, swap notes

Day 2

Wednesday, July 22

6:30 AM through Lunch

- Coffee & Donuts**
Early start at 6:30 am
- 1 General Session**
Full-group morning session
- 3 Breakout Sessions**
Focused topics & hands-on field time
- Lunch**
Included with your ticket
- Open Q & A**
Agronomists stay until questions run out

Bonus: In-person ticket holders receive complimentary access to the 1-day Virtual Winter College (January 2027). This online event revisits key material from the summer program, adds new insights, and follows treatments through to yield—plus a live Q&A.

Sessions

The 4R Reality: Fertility That Pays

As input costs stay high and margins tighten; every fertility decision matters more than ever. This session will focus on economics—separating fact from fiction in today's push to cut inputs. We'll challenge common fertility myths, including reductions tied to strip-till, biologicals, fertilizer formulations, and examine how those choices can quietly mine your soil over time.

Unlocking Nutrients & Profit Through pH Management

Soil pH drives nutrient availability, soil health, nitrogen efficiency, and ultimately your return on investment. This session looks at managing around your pH for maximum productivity and profitability.

Economics and Fertility

Can you cut your way to profitability? During this session we will look at the impacts of fertility rates and placement. We will also look below ground at rooting depth and soil density to determine if certain practices can better set us up for success under any fertility conditions.

Getting the Most Out of Your Fungicide Pass

Not every field needs fungicide but if you have to spray due to pressure, you want to get the most out of your investment. This session will explore questions like: air vs ground, and generic vs premium products. How does carrier rate, droplet size, and surfactants impact the effectiveness of your fungicide pass?

From Grid to Zones: Smarter Decisions, Better ROI

Not every acre performs the same, so why manage it that way? This session breaks down how to identify and build management zones, compare zone sampling to traditional grid approaches, and understand the data layers that drive better decisions with fertility, hybrid management, and management practices by zone.

Soybean Weed Control: Timing & Management Is Everything

Weed pressure, especially waterhemp, continues to challenge soybean production. This session reviews soybean growth stages and how they influence herbicide decisions, including when applications help or hurt yield. We will compare multiple management strategies, from pre and post herbicide programs to mechanical options like row cultivation and show how each approach impacts weed control and performance. Walk away with a clearer plan to manage weeds without sacrificing yield or ROI.

Spraying Smarter Is All in the Details

Getting the most out of every spray pass comes down to the details. This session covers key factors that influence pesticide performance, including adjuvants, droplet size, water quality, water temperature, and proper tank mixing. Learn how applying the 4R's—right product, rate, timing, and application—can improve efficiency, reduce errors, and ensure your herbicide and fungicide applications deliver consistent results.

The 4R Approach of Dialing in Herbicides

For this in-field diagnostics session, you will use info learned from "Spraying Smarter is All in the Details" and put it to use. Small adjustments to the spray tank can lead to big implications in weed control. Attendees will be evaluating herbicide performance, showing how things like surfactant choice, carrier rate, carrier pH, and others influence weed control—and how ignoring the 4R's of spraying can lead to escapes and resistance.

