

# 2025 GRAIN & FEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

## SUSTAINING GROWTH: BRIDGING TRADITION IN THE GRAIN & FEED INDUSTRY

**Where:**

**Embassy Suites on Monterey Bay**

**When:**

**January 14-16, 2025**

**Purpose:**

**An Educational Program Presented  
by CGFA**



 **916-441-2272**

1521 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

[www.cgfa.org](http://www.cgfa.org)



# 2025 GRAIN & FEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

The Grain & Feed Industry Conference is an annual two-day educational event that is planned and coordinated by the California Grain & Feed Association. The basic purpose of the conference is to provide mill managers and key employees of grain handling and feed manufacturing operations a unique educational program consisting of both managerial and technical information specific to the industry. Rather than presenting abstract and theoretical concepts, the Grain & Feed Industry Conference emphasizes practical skills and techniques that are of direct and immediate benefit to the participants. The conference is an extensive educational program. Because many of the participants who attend the GFIC do not attend the CGFA Annual Convention, the conference provides an opportunity to network with others in the industry. The GFIC also gives the association the opportunity to showcase some of the current programs and activities of CGFA. In addition to the educational components, the networking opportunities and the exhibits are important elements of the Grain & Feed Industry Conference.

### TUESDAY ~ JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

**5:30 pm-7:30 pm**      **Early Registration and Welcome Reception**

### WEDNESDAY ~ JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>

**8:00 am-8:15 am**      **Welcome & Student Introductions by Chair Luke Vieira, Associated Feed & Supply**

**8:15 am-9:00 am**      **Equipment Audits and Training**

At this presentation attendees will learn the importance of process audits and how to use data from the audits to improve operations and reduce unexpected downtime.

- o ***Andi Ogles, CPM***

**9:00 am-10:00 am**      **Cal/OSHA Update: Ensuring Safety and Compliance for the Grain and Feed Industry**  
Join Gary, a seasoned safety expert with over three decades of experience in health and safety, as he provides an essential update on Cal/OSHA regulations and initiatives. Drawing on his extensive background, including over 15 years with Cal/OSHA investigating serious accidents and fatalities. Gary will share insights on compliance strategies, recent policy changes, and practical approaches to navigating safety challenges in industries like agriculture and manufacturing. This session is a must attend for those looking to stay informed and proactive about workplace safety and health standards.

- o ***Gary R. McIver, Jr., CSP, Senior Safety Engineer, Cal/OSHA Consultant***

**10:00 am -10:20 am**      **Refreshment & Networking Break**

**10:20 am-11:20 am**      **Reflections on Industry Change Over Time from Grain & Feed Industry Professionals**  
Join us for an engaging and insightful session featuring three seasoned professionals from the grain and feed industry. Drawing from their decades of experience, these industry leaders will share personal stories and reflections on the most significant changes they've witnessed over time. They will look at trends that have shaped the industry's past and continue to influence its future.

- o ***Scott Anderson, CPM, Lyndon Green and Geoff Holland, Andritz Inc.***

**11:20 am-12:00 noon**      **Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Agriculture**  
Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming industries worldwide, and agriculture is no exception. This session will explore an innovative applications of AI in the grain and feed industry. Attendees will gain insight into how AI can address challenges and uncover opportunities. Join us to learn how AI can become a critical tool in shaping the future of grain and feed production and management.

- o ***Speaker TBA***

**12:00 noon -1:00 pm**      **Group Luncheon & Networking**

**1:00 pm-2:00 pm**      **Cultivating Resilient Leaders: Strengthening Leadership and Mental Fitness in California's Grain and Feed Industry**  
In today's demanding agricultural landscape, strong leadership and mental resilience are essential for navigating industry challenges and fostering a productive work environment. This presentation focuses on practical strategies for building mental fitness, reducing stress, and enhancing decision-making abilities among leaders in California's grain and feed sector. Participants will learn how to use tools to develop personal resilience, promote team well-being, and create a culture that supports mental health, empowering their organizations to thrive in the face of industry pressures.

- o ***Dr. Christopher Fischer, Fusion Consultants International***

**2:00 pm-2:45 pm**      **Managing Margins in Today's Volatile Commodity Markets**  
In this session Ryan Turner with StoneX will give us an update on the current commodity market environment, an update on margin structure across the Food and Ag industries, as well as insight into what tools and strategies are currently being used to manage commodity market volatility to stabilize pricing.

- o ***Ryan Turner, StoneX***

**WEDNESDAY ~ JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>** *continued..*

**2:45 pm-3:30 pm**

**Nutritionist Perspective**

Dr. Max Hawkins from Alltech works with the Alltech Mycotoxin Management team providing technical support directly to customers and sales staff to improve livestock health and performance. He provides the livestock industry with up-to-date information on mycotoxin risk on a worldwide basis. In addition, Hawkins provides support to the Alltech Feed Division as well as the beef and swine groups.

- o **Dr. Max Hawkins, Alltech**

**3:30 pm - 3:40 pm**

**Refreshment Break**

**3:40 pm-4:20 pm**

**Hazard Monitoring for Combustible Dust Explosions**

This presentation highlights the critical role of hazard monitoring in ensuring safety in grain/feed facilities. Topics will include: key factors for dust explosions and relevant OSHA/NFPA regulations. Common sensors for conveyors and bucket elevators, with proper installation guidance. Advanced tools and methods for accurate sensor testing and hazard monitoring. A demonstration of an online tool for remote monitoring, maintenance testing, and session documentation. Presenter Gill will provide practical insights and actionable strategies to enhance safety and compliance.

- o **Gil Garcia, 4B Components Ltd.**

**4:20 pm-4:30 pm**

**Group Question/Answer Discussion**

To wrap up the first day, all available speakers will join together on stage for a collaborative Q&A session. This is an opportunity for attendees to engage directly with the day's experts, ask lingering questions, and gain additional insights into the topics discussed throughout the program.

**5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Table Top Exhibits and Group Reception**

**6:30 pm-10:00 pm**

**Group Dinner with NEW "Surf & Turf" Menu & Raffle Prizes along with the fun Cornhole Tournament as well as Casino Tables with Prizes For All Levels!!**

**THURSDAY ~ JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**Moderator: Vice Chair, Scott Herron, Easy Automation**

**8:10 am-8:45 am**

**Collaborative Efforts to Advance the Feed Industry**

This presentation will highlight collaborations advancing the feed industry through partnerships with academia, mentorship programs, and internship opportunities that prepare future employees, fostering talent and innovation in the grain and feed sectors.

- o **Don Harper, Consultant**

**8:45 am-9:30 am**

**CDFA / SAFE Program Update**

CDFA Feed Program & SAFE (20 minutes): This presentation provides updates including new regulations impacting the industry, labeling and use of feeds containing Bovaer-10 in California, federal ingredient approval processes updates, common issues in California feed safety inspections, and safe diversion of human food waste.

CDFA Animal Health (20 minutes): This presentation provides updates on H5N1 (avian influenza), biosecurity requirements, and suggestions for safely delivering feed to dairies and poultry operations.

- o **KC Gutenberger, CDFA Safe Program and a Representative from Animal Health**

**9:30 am-10:15 am**

**Hammer Mill versus Roller Grinder**

Mike will present a comparison between two commonly used grinding technologies in the feed milling industry: the hammer mill and the roller grinder. The session will explore the operational differences, advantages, and limitations of each system, offering valuable insights into how they impact efficiency, particle size, energy consumption, and product quality.

- o **Mike Snyder, Andritz, Inc.**

**10:15 am-11:00 am**

**Impact of Feed on Dairy's Environmental Footprint**

Impact of Feed in Dairy's Environmental Footprint: This session will explore how companies in the feed and grain industry are addressing sustainability, with a particular focus on the environmental impact of feed in dairy operations. The discussion will cover key sustainability topics, including Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Green House Gas (GHG) Accounting, highlighting how those upstream and downstream in the supply chain may benefit from each assessment. Participants will gain practical insights and actionable steps for beginning their own sustainability efforts.

- o **Rachael Wagner, ESG Specialist, Eocene Environmental Group**

**11:00 am**

**Closing - Grand Prize and Golden Bucket Award Winner Announced**

**11:45 am**

**Golf at Pacific Grove Municipal Course**

**1:00 pm**

**Sporting Clays Experience at Coyote Valley in Morgan Hill**

## OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION

### REGISTRATION

Registration forms need to be completed and returned to the CGFA office no later than January 3, 2025. Please be advised that due to guarantees and commitments that CGFA must make to the hotel, full registration refunds can only be made prior to January 3, 2025. An online GFIC micro site with all the details and online registration and sponsorship information is available on the CGFA website. [www.cgfa.org/events](http://www.cgfa.org/events) or call (916) 441-2272.



### TABLE TOPS

The table tops exhibits and reception will be held in the exhibitor's hall. Sponsoring companies will have display spaces set up with sales literature and representatives available to answer questions and share information. Exhibitors are required to register for the conference. The exhibit hall will be open on Wednesday evening from 5:00 pm until after dinner.

### GOLDEN BUCKET AWARD

The coveted "GBA" could be engraved with your company name on it and proudly displayed at your place of business for the remainder of 2025. To enter is simple: submit the details of an idea or describe a project that has been implemented at your mill that either improved efficiency, productivity or safety to CGFA and all entrants will have a chance to show their project at the GFIC. Please include the need for this particular project, how it came up and the details of implementation and the outcome. Photographs are encouraged. This prestigious award will be given to the company whose new innovation to improve productivity at their feed mill wins the popular vote at the 2025 GFIC. The winner will also receive a \$100.00 gift card!

### STUDENT SPONSORSHIP MEMORIAL

This special fund, established in memory of John Gonsalves, continues to sponsor student attendance at the GFIC. If you would like to contribute to the memorial fund there is a line item on the registration form. Students are encouraged to attend and learn more about intern programs and opportunities available in the feed industry.

### GOLF Anyone!

If you are interested in golfing with a group of industry folks after the GFIC simply sign up on the registration form. We will play at the Pacific Grove Golf Course from 11:45 am / 4:30 pm on Thursday afternoon.

### SPORTING CLAYS Anyone!

If you are interested in going to the Coyote Valley Sporting Clays facility located in Morgan Hill with a group of industry folks after the GFIC simply sign up on the registration form. Coyote Valley Sporting Clays will provide all equipment and instructions about the activity from 1:00 pm / 3:00 pm on Thursday afternoon.

### EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

The Embassy Suites Hotel gives you more than just a place to sleep. A group block of rooms has been reserved for the California Grain & Feed Association GFIC participants at a rate of \$199.00 per night plus tax; single/double occupancy. Please call the hotel directly at (800) 362-2779 or (831) 393-1115. The Embassy Suites is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey, Seaside, CA 93955. Hotel reservations must be made by **DECEMBER 29th** in order to receive the group rate or until the group block is full, whichever comes first. Group Code is: "92Z" - MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY! A link is available on the CGFA website "Events" page at [www.cgfa.org](http://www.cgfa.org). Our CGFA personalized group web page address is: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/2025grainfeedindustryconference/>

### 2025 Grain & Feed Industry Conference Planning Committee

Our thanks to the following CGFA members and their companies for the generous gift of their time and expertise:

Chair, Luke Vieira, Associated Feed & Supply  
Barbara Alley, NuWest Milling  
Stan Dillon, Western Milling LLC  
Justin Grider, A.L. Gilbert Co.  
Geoff Holland, Andritz Feed & Biofuel  
Trisha Youngdale, Vitagold Brands

Vice Chair, Scott Herron, Easy-Automation  
Brian Alves, Alves Equipment Co., LLC  
Craig Hamilton, DPI Global  
Steven Gonzales, Nutrius  
Mark Pruett, Nutrius