



2026 GRAIN & FEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE



**AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
PRESENTED BY CGFA**



JANUARY 13-15, 2026

Event & Topic Highlights

About Our Event!

The Grain & Feed Industry Conference is an annual two-day educational event 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.

Leadership & Motivation ◀

Biosecurity ◀

NFPA Standards ◀

Regulatory Updates ◀

Automation & Maintenance ◀

Safety ◀

Training Programs ◀



Contact us
916-441-2272

Website
www.cgfa.org/gfic/



2026 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 13TH

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

WEDNESDAY ~ JANUARY 14TH

8:00 am-8:15 am **Welcome & Student Introductions**

8:15 am-9:00 am **Leadership that Feeds the Future: Growing People, Purpose, and Performance**

Mike Leventini brings more than three decades of leadership experience in the industry to his role as Senior Vice President of Live Operations at Perdue Foods. Mike has led teams through significant organizational change with a focus on integrity, collaboration, and continuous improvement. In this session, he will share insights on how to lead with purpose, motivate teams through evolving challenges, and foster a culture of accountability and innovation. Drawing from his lifelong passion for agriculture and animal welfare, Mike offers a practical, people-centered approach to leadership that inspires excellence at every level of an organization.

o **Mike Leventini, Perdue Foods**

9:00 am-10:00 am **Importance of Biosecurity in the Grain and Feed Industry**

A strong biosecurity plan is essential to the grain and feed industry, particularly in mitigating the risks associated with avian influenza (AI). Feed mills and grain-handling facilities play a critical role in the poultry, dairy and cattle production chain, and lapses in biosecurity can allow the virus to spread through contaminated feed ingredients, equipment, vehicles, or personnel movement. Implementing strict biosecurity measures—such as controlled access, rigorous sanitation protocols, monitoring of raw material sources, and effective pest and wildlife management—helps prevent cross-contamination and protects both animal and human health. A proactive biosecurity plan not only safeguards animals and ensures business continuity but also reinforces confidence in the safety and integrity of the feed supply chain.

o **Nicki Humphrey, DVM, CDFA Animal Health & Matt Junkel, VP Operations
Perdue Foods (retired)**

10:00 am-10:15 am **Refreshment & Networking Break**

10:15 am-11:00 am **Federal OSHA and NFPA Standards Update**

Jess McCluer will provide an update on key Federal OSHA regulatory developments affecting the grain and feed industry. Topics include the Heat and Injury/Illness Prevention Standards, Rolling Stock Fall Protection, and NFPA standards for Dust Hazard Analysis. This session will offer timely insights to help facilities understand and prepare for upcoming compliance requirements.

o **Jess McCluer, National Grain & Feed Association**

11:00 am-11:30 am **CDFA / SAFE Animal Feed Education Program Update**

KC Gutenberger will present the latest updates from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Commercial Feed Regulatory Program. This presentation will cover new and upcoming regulations, highlight key program updates, and share common findings from California Feed Safety Inspections. Attendees will gain practical insights into current compliance trends, learn what inspectors frequently observe in the field, and discover simple steps to help maintain feed safety and regulatory compliance. This session will provide valuable information to help you stay informed and prepared.

o **KC Gutenberger, CDFA Safe Animal Feed Education Program**

11:30 am-12:00 noon **CGFA Legislative Update**

Join us for an insightful session featuring an update on key legislative bills and the latest from CARB.

o **Dennis Albiani, California Grain & Feed Association/California Advocates**

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

WEDNESDAY ~ JANUARY 14TH *continued..*

1:00 pm-1:40 pm

Track Inspection & Repairs

Industrial Railways will be discussing rail conditions, inspections and repairs.

Railroad/Industry Collaboration

BNSF will be discussing the handoff of trains from Railroad to Industry and the expectation details of responsibilities.

1:40 pm-2:20 pm

Production and Automation Panel

This automation panel is designed to optimize and streamline the operations of a feed mill, providing centralized control over critical processes including technology practices, conditioning, pelleting, cooling, and grain conveyance. The panel integrates real-time monitoring, process automation, and data-driven optimization to enhance efficiency, product quality, and operational safety.

Technology Practices, Conditioning, Pelleting & Cooling

o ***Geoff Holland, Halverson Co.***

Grain Conveyance: Getting Part A to Part B and Optimizing Processes

o ***James Ramey, Repete Corp.***

2:20 pm-4:00 pm

Maintenance Panel

Maintenance in a feed mill is critical for ensuring smooth, safe, and efficient operations. Regular maintenance minimizes equipment breakdowns, reducing unplanned downtime that can disrupt production schedules and lead to financial losses. A proactive maintenance program enhances reliability, productivity, and profitability in feed mill operations.

Bucket Elevator Maintenance & Troubleshooting

o ***Dean Wedekind, DuraPlas/Maxi-Lift***

Screw Conveyor/Drag Conveyor Maintenance

o ***Jesse Moran, A Mechanical Systems***

Separation and Pneumatic Conveying

o ***Shane Pritchard, Kice Industries***

3:00 pm-3:15 pm

Refreshment & Networking Break

4:00 pm-4:45 pm

Interactive Risk Management: Learning from Real-World Incidents

Explore the practical side of workplace safety in this interactive session designed to turn real-world incidents into actionable strategies. Participants will collaborate in table groups to analyze scenarios involving hazards, injuries, and insurance claims. Each group will identify root causes and propose corrective actions. The session will then reveal case outcomes and invite discussion to deepen understanding, share insights, and highlight best practices for effective risk mitigation. Walk away with practical tools to strengthen safety programs and reduce risk in their organizations.

o ***Rosa Greenhalgh, InterWest Insurance Services, LLC***

4:45 pm-5:00 pm

Interactive Discussion Session at the Tables with Attendees, Speakers & Students

5:00 pm-6:30 pm

Table Top Exhibits & Group Reception

6:30 pm-9:30 pm

Group Dinner with "Surf & Turf" Menu and a fun Trivia Game Night with Prizes

THURSDAY ~ JANUARY 15TH

******New This Year - Break-Out Training Sessions******

8:00 am-11:00 am

(Concurrent: Select one session)

Fall Protection

This training teaches feed mill employees to identify fall hazards, use personal protection equipment such as harnesses and lifelines, and follow safe work practices around grain bins, silos, and conveyors. Hands-on exercises reinforce climbing techniques, equipment use, and emergency response to ensure workplace safety and prevent injuries.

o ***Kevin Clutter, WCF Insurance***

Confined Space Rescue

This training teaches feed mill employees to recognize confined space hazards, understand entry procedures, and use proper personal protective equipment. Participants learn safe ventilation, monitoring, and communication practices, as well as emergency response protocols. Examples and exercises teaches the concepts of rescue techniques, ensuring employees can respond effectively and safely in confined space emergencies.

o ***Arturo Trejo***

11:30 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 December 27, 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 December 27, 2025. A GFIC micro site with all the details, online registration, and sponsorship information is available on the CGFA website. Visit www.cgfa.org/gfic/ or call (916) 441-2272.



TABLE TOPS

The table top 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 2026. 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 a short description of the project including how the project developed, details of implementation and outcome of project. Please include pictures. This prestigious award will be given to the company whose project to improve productivity at their feed mill wins the popular vote at the 2026 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 please contact Donna Boggs at the CGFA office (916) 441-2272 or email donna@agamsi.com. 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 11:30 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 \$205.00 per night plus tax; single/double occupancy. Please call the hotel directly at (831) 393-1115 ext. 1403 and ask for Chyvonne in Sales Dept. The Embassy Suites is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey, Seaside, CA 93955. Hotel reservations must be made by **DECEMBER 27th** in order to receive the group rate or until the group block is full, whichever comes first. Group Code is: "GFC" - MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY! A link is available on the CGFA website "Events" page at www.cgfa.org/gfic/. Our CGFA personalized group web page address is: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/grainfeedindustryconference2026/>

2026 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:

Geoff Holland, Halverson Co.
Aaron Arnold, AA Mill Works
Stan Dillon, Western Milling LLC
Stephen Davis, Bar ALE Inc.
David Meeker, Penny-Newman Grain Co.

Scott Herron, Easy-Automation
Justin Grider, A.L. Gilbert Co.
Craig Hamilton, DPI Global
Joel Douglas, Bar ALE Inc.
Alejandro Hernandez, Penny-Newman Grain Co.

Barbara Alley, NuWest Milling LLC
Jonathon Rodrigues, A.L. Gilbert Co.
Trisha Youngdale, Vitagold Brands