

2026 AFGA Nutrition Seminar

Speaker Bios

Lauren Finlay has been with dsm-firmenich for over 6 years in the Nutritional Services department. She is responsible for formulations, premix labelling and regulatory compliance for the US and Canada, evaluation of premix and ingredient quality characteristics and vitamin stability in premix. Lauren holds a master's degree in animal nutrition, with a focus on beef cattle nutrition from the University of Guelph, Canada. Lauren currently lives in Guelph, Ontario with her partner David, and their two dogs.



Rocky Latham earned his Bachelor of Science degree in poultry science from Texas A&M University in 2009. Following graduation, he accepted a position with Sanderson Farms in live production serving as a broiler and breeder supervisor. He worked for Sanderson Farms for two and a half years and then decided to further his education. He was accepted into the graduate poultry science program at Texas A&M University and served as a lab technician in an applied poultry nutrition laboratory focused on evaluating dietary nutrient profiles and feed additives. In 2016, he received his PhD from Texas A&M University and accepted a position as a nutritionist with Tyson Foods. He currently serves as the managing director of nutrition and feed mill operations. The role is to oversee nutrition, feed mill operations and research. Research ranges from nutrition, feed additives, genetic and gut health studies.



Philip Lobo is the grandson of a corn and soybean farmer in northern Illinois where he also ran the local feedlot. Philip earned his undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his Master of Business Administration from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Phoenix, Arizona and a Certificate of Achievement from Beijing University. It was the 1980s and everyone urged him not to go into agriculture, but he felt the draw and went to work for Diamond V Mills then Watt Global Media, the Animal Agriculture Alliance and United Soybean Board, where he led a diverse array of programs ranging from animal nutrition research and promotion, consumer and agricultural economics, sustainability, aquaculture nutrition research, meat and poultry exports, and issues management. He now operates Lobo Consulting Solutions which draws on his expertise in those fields. He recently collaborated on a high-profile study about U.S. imports of vitamins and amino acids for IFEEDER, the Institute for Feed Education and Research.



Brett Lumpkins attended the University of Florida, where he received a Bachelor of Science focused on poultry science. While at the University of Florida he had the opportunity to conduct undergraduate research with Dr. Robert Harms. His early exposure to poultry research consisted of several different laying hen studies. He then completed his M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Georgia under the direction of Dr. Amy Batal (with Dr. Margie Lee during his Ph.D.), with research emphasizing corn distillers dried grains with solubles and broiler intestinal bacterial ecology. In 2008, he joined Dr. Greg Mathis at Southern Poultry Research, Inc., where he worked alongside Dr. Mathis learning commercial research and had the opportunity to conduct countless studies. In 2018, Dr. Lumpkins purchased the facility and started Southern Poultry Feed and Research. He has been fortunate to carry on the legacy of the company while working with Dr. Mathis who has been a longtime friend and current fellow associate.



Jarred Oxford is a Senior Poultry Nutritionist for Cargill Animal Nutrition – North America. Jarred is a native of Watkinsville, Georgia, and currently resides with his family in Bogart, Georgia. Jarred received his B.S.A. (2016) in Poultry Science, M.S. (2018) in Poultry Nutrition, and Ph.D. (2020) in Poultry Nutritional Immunology from the University of Georgia. In his current role, Jarred develops customer specific feeding programs and troubleshoots nutrition and management issues to optimize nutritional value and financial return. Prior to joining Cargill, Jarred worked for Jefe Nutrition as a Technical Services and Sales Representative for the U.S. and Canada. Jarred is currently a Masters Committee Member and has been an invited lecturer for NCSU Poultry Science Department, UGA Poultry Science Department, and UGA Poultry Diagnostic Research Center. He has 10+ peer-reviewed papers published in high impact and internationally recognized journals and has given multiple presentations at scientific and commercial conferences. Jarred is an ad-hoc reviewer for the Journal of Applied Poultry Research and the Poultry Science Journal. He is also an active member of the Poultry Science Association and currently serves as the President of the Southern Poultry Science Society.



Amy Petry is an internationally recognized expert in swine nutrition and an Assistant Professor in the Division of Animal Sciences at the University of Missouri. She earned her B.S. and M.S. in Animal Science from Texas Tech University, where her passion for the pork industry was ignited and ultimately led her to pursue a Ph.D. at Iowa State University. Dr. Petry began her faculty career at Texas Tech, where she served the Dept. of Animal Science from 2021 to 2023 before joining the University of Missouri. Her research program aims to advance energy and nutrient utilization in pigs through a mechanistic and applied understanding of dietary fiber, carbohydrate metabolism, and bioenergetics. Dr. Petry currently serves on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee, updating the *Nutrient Requirements of Swine*. Her innovative, industry-connected program has transformed how dietary fiber is characterized and valued in swine nutrition, leading to measurable improvements in sow productivity, nutrient efficiency, and production sustainability. Dr. Petry is also an award-winning educator and dedicated mentor who teaches multiple courses in nutrition and swine production and has advised 9 graduate students and 22 undergraduate researchers.



J.T. Pope completed his studies at North Carolina State University where he studied poultry science, feed manufacturing, and nutrition. Upon graduating, J.T. started working as a nutritionist with House of Raeford, a family-owned broiler integrator based in eastern North Carolina, and he utilizes company research facilities to investigate many facets of applied poultry.



Audrianna Rogers is an Account Manager with Agri Stats, where she supports poultry industry partners with data-driven insights to improve performance and decision-making. She works closely with teams to translate performance and cost data into practical, actionable information. Her background spans the poultry chain, including further processing facilities, debone operations, and live production in both breeder and broiler systems. She lives in North Louisiana with her husband and three children, where they enjoy spending time outdoors on both land and water. Audrianna is passionate about connecting industry data to real-world poultry production trends and helping customers understand where the industry is today and where it's headed.



Arne Solbak has supported the discovery, evolution, and development of feed enzymes for more than 25 years. His career spans the early days of Diversa and its successor, Verenium, where he contributed to foundational advances in industrial biotechnology platforms. Following Verenium's acquisition by BASF in 2014, Arne continued to apply his scientific and technical expertise within large-scale industrial environments, with a continued focus on feed enzymes. Over the course of his career, his work has increasingly shifted toward the application side of enzyme development, bridging fundamental enzymology with practical performance in commercial feed and industrial contexts. Based in San Diego, California, Arne enjoys spending time outdoors with his family and is an avid surfer, sailor, and fly-fishing enthusiast, frequently chasing trout in the Sierra Nevada mountains.



Brad Tipton is the Director of Feed Mill Quality Assurance for Pilgrim's USA. Brad began his feed manufacturing career at age 19 with Seaboard Farms in Chattanooga, Tennessee, starting out in housekeeping and grounds maintenance. Over the next 16 years, Brad worked in a wide range of feed mill roles, gaining hands-on experience across all aspects of mill operations before serving as Feed Mill Manager. In 2014, he transitioned into Live Technical Services, where he now manages quality assurance, regulatory compliance and provides technical support for Pilgrim's 24 North American feed manufacturing facilities.



Kelley Wamsley is a Professor of Poultry Science at Mississippi State University, where she has a 40% teaching and 60% research appointment and serves as Graduate Coordinator, while also leading the department's Feed Mill Project, which they are breaking ground on May 7th, 2026. She earned her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from West Virginia University under Dr. Joe Moritz, along with a Certificate in University Teaching. Since joining Mississippi State in 2012, Dr. Wamsley has built a program focused on optimizing broiler performance through feed and feed technology, with emphasis on physical feed quality, amino acid and energy formulation strategies, and the applied use of feed additives and alternative ingredients. Her work bridges formulation and feed manufacturing to better understand how nutrition is delivered to the bird. She teaches courses in feed manufacture, poultry evaluation, and graduate seminars, and coaches the collegiate poultry judging team. She has directly mentored 15 international visiting scholars, more than 80 undergraduate students and 18 graduate students.



Dr. David Wicker has over 50 years' experience in the poultry industry. He is a native of South Carolina who grew up on a family poultry, dairy, and cotton farm. He was awarded a bachelor's degree in poultry science and a doctorate in nutrition and biochemistry from Clemson University. Dr. Wicker joined Fieldale Farms as Director of Nutrition and Technical Services in the Live Production Division from 1995 – 2007. In 2007, he was promoted to Director of Live Operations and was later named Vice President, Live Production in 2010. He retired from Fieldale Farms in 2025, after spending 30 years there. Prior to joining Fieldale Farms, Dr. Wicker worked in applied technology and animal research at Degussa Corporation of New Jersey. He also managed a breeder/hatchery program and directed the nutrition and feed ingredient program for Bayshore Foods. Throughout his career, he has been actively involved in industry and academic leadership, including the South Carolina Poultry Federation Board of Directors and National Chicken Council. His current interests are Robots for Poultry Houses; Computer programs for modeling poultry responses and financial results; Data Analytics; and Precision Nutrition.

