



# 2026 Spring Meeting

Location: Cafeteria conference room, USDA South Building, 1400 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC

**Tuesday,  
04/21/26**

## Working Group Meetings

Times (Eastern)	Group
1:00 – 5:00 pm, Eastern Time	<p><b>Composition</b> – 1:00 – 1:15 pm Group lead Brandon Fast</p> <p><b>Nucleic Acid</b> – 1:15 – 2:25 pm Group co-leads James Haudenshield &amp; Shofi Islam</p> <p><b>Protein</b> - 3:10 – 4:40 pm Group co-leads Chris Ament and Mark Bednarcik</p> <p><b>Website and Google Shared Drive</b> – 4:40 – 5:00 pm Group lead Donna Houchins</p> <p>(Lunch will not be provided)</p>



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<b>Day 1</b> <b>Presentations, Business and Industry Updates</b> <b>Wednesday, 04/22/2026</b>		
Times (Eastern)		Speaker
8:00 – 8:15	Registration	All
8:15 – 8:30	Opening Welcome & Participant introduction	Tao Geng, Past President, Corteva
8:30 – 9:00	Welcome and introduction to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Biotechnology at USDA	Jennifer Rowland, PhD, USDA OCE
9:00 – 9:45	Speaker 1. USDA ARS Crop Genetic Improvement and Biotechnology	Jack Okamuro, PhD, USDA ARS
9:45– 10:30	Speaker 2. Charting the Future of Biotechnology: Insights from the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology	Jennifer Beddor, National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology
10:30 – 10:45	Break	All
10:45 – 12:15 30 min each	Hot topic sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metabolomics for GMO Safety: Right Tool, Wrong Job?</li> <li>• Seed testing</li> <li>• EFSA explanatory note on protein expression</li> </ul>	Ani Raychaudhuri, Bayer Tiffanie West, AOCS Rong Wang, Bayer
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch (Sponsored by Kemp Proteins)	All
1:15 – 2:45	Business Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary Report</li> <li>• Treasurer Report</li> <li>• Membership Update</li> <li>• Fall 2026 Meeting Location / Suggested Topics/Planning</li> </ul> Updates from Working Groups and Task Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Composition Working Group Updates</li> <li>Nucleic Acid Working Group Updates</li> <li>Protein Working Group Updates</li> <li>Website, Training Slide and Google Shared Drive Update</li> </ul> Updates from Industry Associations and Relevant Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISO groups – TC34/SC16, SC4 and TC34</li> <li>ISBR 2025</li> <li>EFSA workshop on protein safety assessment</li> </ul>	Rong Wang, President, Bayer
		Penny Hunst, Secretary, Ag Consultant
		Matt Cheever, Treasurer, BASF
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		Chris Ament, Vice President, Eurofins
		Brandon Fast James Haudenshield & Shofi Islam Chris Ament and Mark Bednarcik Donna Houchins
Mike Sussman, USDA Tao Geng, Corteva Rong Wang, Bayer		
2:45 – 3:00	Break	All
3:00 – 3:45	Speaker 3. Regulatory Reset: Changes to USDA Regulations and Process Improvements	Doug Grant, PhD, USDA BRS
3:45 – 4:30	Speaker 4. Global Biotechnology Regulations: Overview and Role of the American Seed Trade Association	Annie Gustche, ASTA/Corteva
4:30 – 5:00	Day 1 Wrap Up	All
6:00 – 9:00	Group Dinner at <a href="#">Supra</a> , 1205 11 <sup>th</sup> St. NW, Washington, DC 20001 – Contributed by Romer Labs and SGS	All



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**Day 2**

**Presentations and Tour**  
**Thursday, 04/23/2026**

<b>Times (Central)</b>	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
8:00 – 8:15	Networking; Introduction of Day 2	Tao Geng, Past President, Corteva
8:15 – 9:00	Speaker 6. AI: Delivering Real-World Seed Improvement Solutions	Jim Schweigert, Gro Alliance
9:00 – 9:45	Speaker 7. Genetic alteration of pigs for human therapeutic applications	John Bianchi, PhD, United Therapeutics
9:45 – 10:00	Break	All
10:00 – 10:45	Speaker 8. USDA ARS efforts to support US agriculture – gene banks, disease resistance trait discovery and characterization	Jack Okamuro, PhD, USDA ARS
10:45 – 11:30	Speaker 9. Research topic from USDA ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station	Chris Dardick, PhD, USDA ARS
11:30 – 12:15	Speaker 10. Research topic from ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station	Chris Gottschalk, PhD, USDA ARS
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch (on your own) – option will be provided to those participating in the tour	All
1:30 – 2:30	Tour: USDA Museum, USDA South Building	Wayne Connelly, USDA FBC All who signed up