

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
General Session – Crystal Ballroom

8:00 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks:**
T. D. Reed, 52nd TWC Conference Chair

Grower Sustainability	8:10 am	1. Are decreasing yields of burley tobacco in Kentucky the result of many minor incremental losses? <u>C. Fisher</u> , University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA
	8:30 am	2. Long-Term Sustainability of Dark Tobacco Production in Western Kentucky. <u>A. Bailey</u> ; University of Kentucky, Research & Education Center, Princeton, KY, USA
	8:50 am	3. Profitability of Flue-Cured Tobacco Production in Virginia. <u>S. Barts</u> ; Virginia Tech - Pittsylvania County Cooperative Extension, Chatham, VA, USA
	9:10 am	4. STP: Partnering for Progress. <u>B. Irving</u> ; Altria Client Services, Richmond, VA, USA

Presiding:
Bob Pearce

9:40 am **Break**

Agronomic Production Practices	10:10 am	5. Does Later Topping Improve the Quality of Low Alkaloid Burley Tobacco? <u>A. Fisher</u> ¹ , <u>C. Fisher</u> ¹ , <u>H. Ji</u> ¹ , <u>J. Kinney</u> ¹ , <u>S. Slone</u> ² , and <u>S. Yang</u> ³ ; ¹ Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, USA, ² Dr. Bing Zhang Department of Statistics, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, USA, ³ United States Department of Agriculture, Fargo, ND, USA
	10:50 am	6. Effects of Ridging and Hilling on Dark Tobacco Performance: a 3-Year Summary. <u>C. Rodgers</u> , C. Perkins, and A. Bailey; University of Kentucky, Research & Education Center, Princeton, KY, USA
Agronomic Production Practices (continued)	11:10 am	7. Impact of Plant Population on Agronomic Characteristics, Leaf Quality, Chemistry, and Labor Requirement in Burley Tobacco. <u>S. Graham</u> , and M. Richmond; University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA
	11:30 am	8. Evaluation of Alternative Timing Programs for Contact Sucker Control Application in Flue-Cured Tobacco. <u>J. Cheek</u> , J. Machacek, D. Suchoff, and M. James; North Carolina State University - Crop & Soil Sciences Department, Raleigh, NC, USA

	11:50 am	9. An Overview of Agriculture in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. <u>J. Graybill</u> ; Lancaster County Cooperative Extension, Lancaster, PA, USA
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Presiding:
Josh Long

12:10 pm **Lunch**

Tobacco Leaf Spot Management	1:20 pm	10. Effect of Miravis Top® Applications on Dark Air-Cured Cigar Wrapper Tobacco Production. <u>C. Perkins</u> , C. Rodgers, and A. Bailey; University of Kentucky, Research & Education Center, Princeton, KY, USA
	1:40 pm	11. Managing Angular Leaf Spot in Tobacco: Evaluating the Efficacy of Actigard. <u>A. Webb</u> ¹ , N. Martinez ¹ , Bob Pearce ¹ , and A. Bailey ² ; ¹ University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA, ² University of Kentucky, Princeton, KY, USA
	2:00 pm	12. Evaluating tobacco target spot for fungicide resistance in the field through optimizing timing and technique. <u>A.K. Turner</u> , Z. Hansen, and M. Richmond; University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA
	2:20 pm	13. Tobacco green spot: A new twist on an old disease problem. <u>K. Swift</u> and B. Bluhm; Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Fayetteville, AR, USA

Presiding:
Nate Westrick

2:40 pm **Break**

Tobacco Integrated Pest Management	3:10 pm	14. Tobacco disease diagnosis and pathogen detection to improve management responses. Y. Zeng and D. Reed; Virginia Tech – Southern Piedmont Agriculture Research and Extension Center, Blackstone, VA, USA
	3:40 pm	15. Approaching Angular Leaf Spot Disease Management from a Systems Approach: The Role of Tillage and Cover Crop Selection. <u>M. Richmond</u> , A. Thelin, R. Ellis, and W. Bracey; University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA
	4:00 pm	16. Insights on Control of Early Insect Pests in Tobacco. <u>L. Lopez</u> ¹ , M. Vann ² , and C. Sorenson ¹ ; ¹ North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA, ² University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, USA
	4:20 pm	17. Balancing Host Resistance Across Multiple Pests and Yield Potential in Tobacco. <u>D. Ahumada</u> , M. Kidd, A. Gorny, J. Fagen, and A. Ernst; North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA

- 4:40 pm **18. Tomato spotted wilt virus in Georgia tobacco: A three year summary.** B. Reeves¹, T. Barnes², J. Shealey², J. Miller², S. Curry², R. Greene², A. Shirley², J.M. Moore², and J. Dawson³; ¹University of Georgia, Nashville, GA, USA, ²Universtiy of Georgia Coop. Extension, Tifton, GA, USA, ³Fort Valley State University Coop. Extension, Valdosta, GA, USA

Presiding:
Jensen Hayter

5:00 pm **Adjourn**

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Technical Sessions – Crystal Ballroom

Tobacco Breeding

- 8:00 am **19. Identification and functional characterization of novel bHLH transcription factors regulating nicotine biosynthesis.** X. Wu, S. Pattanaik, B. Patra, and L. Yuan; Kentucky Tobacco Research & Development Center and Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA
- 8:20 am **20. Investigating improved genetics and spray application of a jasmonic acid analog on nicotine levels in field-grown tobacco.** K. Bradley, M. Vann, J. Cheek, J. Machacek, and R.S. Lewis; North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA
- 8:40 am **21. Investigating the genetic control of photoperiod sensitivity in *Nicotiana tabacum*.** I. Gent, S.P. Kernodle, and R.S. Lewis; North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA
- 9:00 am **22. A system for expeditious conversion of tobacco inbred lines to cytoplasmic male sterility.** S. Moore, S. P. Kernodle, and R. S. Lewis; North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA
- 9:20 am **23. Angular Leaf Spot (ALS) Tolerance in US Dark Tobacco.** A. Adams, C. Kudithipudi, W. Morris, and E. Brown; Altria Client Services, Richmond, VA, USA
- 9:40 am **24. Evaluating the Ability of Tobacco Varieties Resistant/Tolerant to Black Root Rot and Tobacco Mosaic Virus to Suppress Tobacco Cyst Nematodes.** N. Andreola, M. AL-Amery, and G. Amankwa; Canadian Tobacco Research Foundation, Tillsonburg, ON, Canada

Presiding:
Cameron Shelton

10:00 am **Break**

Engineering Applications for Tobacco Production	10:30 am	25. Reducing electrical energy usage during curing and wireless monitoring system applications. <u>G. Ellington</u> , J.A. Macialek, J.L. Bradley, and K. Bostian; North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA
	10:50 am	26. Feasibility study using solar photovoltaic energy systems on bulk curing barns. <u>J. Macialek</u> , K. Bostian, J.L. Bradley, and G.H. Ellington; North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA
	11:00 am	27. Quantifying Field Efficiency of Tobacco Harvesting Systems Using John Deere Operations Center Data. <u>J. Bradley</u> , G. H. Ellington, and J. A. Macialek; North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA
	11:30 am	28. Improved and More Reliable Transplant Water Application. <u>T.D. Clarke</u> ; Virginia Tech - Mecklenburg County Extension, Boydton, VA, USA
	11:50 am	29. Effect of Drone-Applied Maleic Hydrazide on Sucker Control and Cured Leaf Residues in Flue-Cured Tobacco. <u>L. Szoch</u> , C. Cahoon, Z. Taylor, J. Cheek, J. Machacek, and M. Vann; North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA

Presiding:

J. Michael Moore

12:10 pm

Lunch

Poster Session – Crystal Ballroom III

Poster Session (continued)	1:20 pm	30. Testing a Greenhouse Method to Screen for Resistance to Frogeye Leaf Spot in Tobacco. <u>N. Martinez</u> and R. Pearce; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA
		31. Evaluation of lime and molybdenum supplementation on the yield of burley tobacco. <u>J. Kinney</u> ; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA
Poster Session (continued)		32. Survey of Well Water Sources Used in Tobacco Float Bed Systems in the Dark Tobacco Region of Kentucky and Tennessee. <u>A. Bailey</u> , T. Weatherly, M. Rudolph, and M. Chadwick; University of Kentucky, Research & Education Center, Princeton, KY, USA
		33. Impact of Nitrogen Rate and Application Method on Agronomic Characteristics and Yield of Burley Tobacco. <u>S. Graham</u> and M.D. Richmond; University of Tennessee - Knoxville, Knoxville, TN, USA

- 34. Quantifying Tobacco Seed Performance.** T.D. Reed; Virginia Tech - Southern Piedmont Center, Blackstone, VA, USA

Graduate Student Poster Competition

The 52nd Tobacco Workers' Conference extends its sincere appreciation to the following graduate students for outstanding participation in the Graduate Student Poster Competition.

- * **35. Tray, Media, and Seed Source Impacts on Germination and Usable Transplant Production in the Tobacco Float System.** W. Raymond, R. Pearce, N. Martinez, and J. Kinney; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA
- * **36. Long term impact of crop rotation, nitrogen rate and tillage on yield of burley tobacco.** S. Spiggle, R. Pearce, and K. Mizuta; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA
- * **37. Two-year study: Agronomic performance and pest susceptibility of two low alkaloid burley tobacco cultivars.** M.M. Ricciardi, R. Pearce, and N. Martinez; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA
- * **38. Evaluation of fungicides azoxystrobin, pydiflumetofen, difenoconazole, and inpyrfluxam for controlling target spot in tobacco.** A.K. Turner, Z.R. Hansen, and M. Richmond; University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA

Poster Session (continued)

- * **39. Assessing foliar fungicides for tobacco target spot management in Virginia.** J. Dong^{1,2}, K. Chhetri^{1,2}, S. Ferrer^{1,2}, T.D.Reed^{1,2}, and Y. Zeng^{1,2}; ¹Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Tech, Blackstone, VA, USA, ²School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, USA
- * **40. Impact of Low Conversion of Nicotine to Nornicotine on Yield, Leaf Quality, and Chemistry of Burley and Dark Tobacco.** S. Graham¹, M. Richmond¹, A. Bailey², and R. Pearce²; ¹University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA, ²University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

Tobacco Soil Management and

2:20 pm

- 41. Tobacco Fertilizer: Cadillac to Pinto.** N. Harrell¹ and B.M. Spivey²; ¹North Carolina State University - Cooperative Extension, Wilson, NC, USA, ²County Extension Director, NC Cooperative Extension - Johnston County Center, Smithfield, NC, USA

	2:40 pm	42. Bud Deformity: Is it Boron or Calcium? <u>B. Spivey</u> ¹ , N.E. Harrell ² , J. A. Cheek ³ , J. L. Machacek ³ , M.S. James ³ , and D.H. Suchoff ³ ; ¹ North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Smithfield, NC, USA, ² North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Wilson, NC, USA, ³ North Carolina State University - Crop & Soil Sciences, Raleigh, NC, USA
	3:00 pm	43. Sulfur and Chloride Fertilization Impact on Burley Tobacco Growth, Yield and Leaf Chemistry. <u>R. Pearce</u> , J. Kinney, N. Martinez, M. Ricciardi, and A. Webb; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA
	3:20 pm	44. The Challenge of Reactive Soil pH Management for Manganese Toxicity in Burley Tobacco. <u>M. Richmond</u> , K. Allen, S. Graham, and K. Turner; University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA

	3:40 pm	45. Evaluation of starter fertilizer source and placement on tobacco growth, yield, and quality. <u>D. Suchoff</u> , M. Vann, M. James, J. Cheek, and J. Machacek; Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA
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Presiding:
Andy Bailey

4:00 pm **Break**

Greenhouse Transplant Production	4:30 pm	46. Impact of Variable Test Conditions on Tobacco Seed Performance. <u>T.D. Reed</u> and S. Sachan; Virginia Tech - Southern Piedmont Center, Blackstone, VA, USA
	4:50 pm	47. Greenhouse performance of hard plastic float trays compared with polystyrene float trays for tobacco transplant production. <u>R. Pearce</u> and A. Bailey; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA
	5:10 pm	48. Impact of Tobacco Seed Performance on the Yield of Usable Greenhouse Tobacco Transplants. <u>T.D. Reed</u> ; Virginia Tech - Southern Piedmont Center, Blackstone, VA, USA

Presiding:
Mitchell Richmond

5:30 pm **Business Meeting**
All conference attendees are invited.

6:00 pm **Adjourn**

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Technical Sessions

Nematode Management	8:00 am	49. Identification of a <i>Globodera tabacum</i> pathotype capable of reproduction on nematode-resistant TCN-1 broadleaf wrapper tobacco. <u>J. LaMondia</u> ¹ and M.Salvas ² ; ¹ Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Windsor, CT, USA, ² The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Valley Laboratory, Windsor, CT, USA
	8:20 am	50. Breeding Flue-Cured Tobacco (<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.) for Resistance to Tobacco Cyst Nematode in Canada Using U.S. Accession PI552524. <u>G. Amankwa</u> ¹ , G. Amankwa ¹ , C. Saude ¹ , A. Thiessen ¹ , A. Shearer ¹ , M. Amery ¹ , and M.Richmond ² ; ¹ Canadian Tobacco Research Foundation, Tillsonburg, ON, Canada, ² Department of Plant Sciences, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Knoxville, TN, USA
	8:40 am	51. Evaluation Fall and Spring Application of the Fumigant Metam Sodium (Busan) for Nematode Control in Flue-Cured Tobacco Production. <u>M. AL-Amery</u> ; Canadian Tobacco Research Foundation, Tillsonburg, ON, Canada
	9:00 am	52. Evaluation of nematicide treatments containing Chloropicrin 100, Telone II and Velum Prime for managing southern root-knot nematode in tobacco in Georgia. <u>J.L. Dawson</u> ¹ , I. A. Chowdhury ² , L. Torres ² , J. M. Moore ² , and G. Jagdale ³ ; ¹ Fort Valley State University Coop. Extension, Valdosta, GA, USA, ² University of Georgia Coop. Extension, Tifton, GA, USA, ³ University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA
	9:20 am	53. Using the MiniRae 3000 to detect volatile organic compounds (VOCs) following application of soil fumigants prior to transplanting. <u>J. Shealey</u> ¹ , T. Barnes ¹ , B. Reeves ¹ , A. Shirley ¹ , R. Greene ¹ , J. Jacobs ¹ , M. Frye ¹ , W. Brown ¹ , T. Torrance ¹ , J.M. Moore ¹ , and J. Dawson ² ; ¹ University of Georgia Coop. Extension, Tifton, GA USA, ² Fort Valley State University Coop. Extension, Valdosta, GA, USA

Presiding:

William Hardee

9:40 am

Break

Black Shank Management	10:10 am	54. Black shank variety trials in Tennessee, USA. <u>J. Hayter</u> and M. Richmond; University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Knoxville, TN, USA
	10:30 am	55. Evaluation of Tobacco Cultivars in Atkinson County Georgia for resistance to <i>Phytophthora nicotianae</i>. <u>T.D. Barnes</u> ¹ , J.M. Moore ² , Ben Reeves ² , Justin Shealey ² , Sarah Curry ² , Ross Greene ² , and Josh Dawson ³ ; ¹ University of Georgia Extension, Atkinson County, Pearson, GA, USA, ² University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA, ³ Fort Valley State, Fort Valley, GA, USA

	10:50 am	56. Host-associated and spatiotemporal dynamics of <i>Phytophthora nicotianae</i> populations. <u>J. Dong</u> ^{1,2} , N. Martinez-Ochoa ³ , A. Bailey ³ , Z.Hansen ⁴ , J. Pasche ⁵ , C.Hong ^{2,6} , T.D. Reed ^{1,2} , and Y. Zeng ^{1,2} ; ¹ Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Tech, Blackstone, VA, USA, ² School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, USA, ³ Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA, ⁴ Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA, ⁵ Department of Plant Pathology, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, USA, ⁶ Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Tech, Virginia Beach, VA, USA
	11:10 am	57. Beyond inoculum: environmental factors associated with black shank. <u>Y. Zeng</u> and T.D. Reed; Virginia Tech – Southern Piedmont Agriculture Research and Extension Center, Blackstone, VA, USA

Presiding:
Daisy Ahumada

Regional Tobacco Programs	11:30 am	58. Flue-cured Tobacco Minimum Standards Program Overview and Recent Trends. <u>J. Machacek</u> , J.A. Cheek, M.S. James, and D.H. Suchoff; North Carolina State University - Crop & Soil Sciences Department, Raleigh, NC, USA
	11:50 am	59. Results of 15 Years of Pesticide Residue Testing in Dark Air-Cured and Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco in Kentucky. <u>A. Bailey</u> , C. Rodgers, and C. Perkins; University of Kentucky, Research & Education Center, Princeton, KY, USA

Presiding:
Whit Morris

12:10 pm **Awards & Closing Luncheon**

1:30 pm **Conference Adjourn**