

agInnovation North Central Officers and Standing Committee Members

(Link to [Rules of Operation](#) for committee descriptions)

Federal Fiscal Year (10/1 to 9/30): 2026

Last Updated: 5/6/2026

agInnovation North Central Officers and Standing Committees

agInnovation North Central Officers (normal term length: 1 year)

Position	Name	Email	State	Start Date	End Date
Past Chair	Shibu Jose	joses@missouri.edu	MO	10/1/2025	9/30/2026
Chair	Derek McLean	derek.mclean@unl.edu	NE	10/1/2025	9/30/2026

agInnovation North Central Executive Committee (EC; normal term length: 3 years)

Position	Name	Email	State	Start Date	End Date
Past Chair	Shibu Jose	joses@missouri.edu	MO	10/1/2025	9/30/2026
Chair	Derek McLean	derek.mclean@unl.edu	NE	10/1/2025	9/30/2027
Chair Elect	Joleen Hadrich	jhadrich@umn.edu	MN	10/1/2025	9/30/2028
MRC Chair	Joleen Hadrich	jhadrich@umn.edu	MN	10/1/2025	9/30/2026
Member	Tala Awada	tawada@unl.edu	NE	6/1/2023	9/30/2026
Executive Vice Chair	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	1/1/2023	NA

agInnovation North Central Multistate Research Committee (MRC; term length is 3 years as member + 1 year as chair)

Position	Name	Email	State	Start Date	End Date
MRC Chair	Joleen Hadrich	jhadrich@umn.edu	MN	10/1/2025	9/30/2026
Member	Troy Runge	trunge@wisc.edu	WI	10/1/2023	9/30/2027
Member	Jane Schuh	jmschuh@ksu.edu	KS	10/1/2024	9/30/2028
Member	Tala Awada	tawada@unl.edu	NE	10/1/2024	9/30/2028
Member	Danny Singh	singhak@iastate.edu	IA	10/1/2025	9/30/2029
Ex-Officio (ED)	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	1/1/2023	NA
Ex-Officio (AD)	Christina Hamilton	chamilton@wisc.edu	agInnovation North Central/WI	8/1/2007	NA

Nominations and Awards Committee (NAC; normal term length: 3 years total, 2 of which are as chair)

Position	Name	Email	State	Start Date	End Date
Chair	Héctor Santiago	hsantiago@unl.edu	NE	10/1/2024	9/30/2027
Member	James Averill	averillj@msu.edu	MI	4/1/2024	9/30/2027
Member	Lingying Zhao	zhao.119@osu.edu	OH	4/1/2024	9/30/2027
Ex-Officio (ED)	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	1/1/2023	NA
Ex-Officio (AD)	Christina Hamilton	chamilton@wisc.edu	agInnovation North Central/WI	8/1/2007	NA

National Committee Appointments

BAA (Board on Ag Assembly)/PBD (Policy Board of Directors) CLP (Committee on Legislation and Policy)

Position	Name	Email	State	Start Date	End Date
agInnovation PBD Representative	Shibu Jose	joses@missouri.edu	MO	6/1/2023	TBD
agInnovation CLP Representative	Gary Pierzynski	pierzynski.3@osu.edu	OH	3/18/2024	TBD

Ex-Officio (ED)	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	10/1/2022	9/30/2026
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agInnovation NRSP Review Committee (NRSP-RC; 4-year term) <https://escop.info/committee/nrsp-rc/>

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
agInnovation North Central Member	John Blanton	john.blanton@sdstate.edu	SD	10/1/2024	9/30/2028

agInnovation Executive Committee <https://escop.info/committee/executive-committee/>

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Regional Chair/Rep	Derek McLean	derek.mclean@unl.edu	NE	10/1/2025	9/30/2026
Perm. Alternate (ED)	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	1/1/2023	NA

agInnovation Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC) <https://escop.info/committee/cac/>

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Regional Chair/Rep	Derek McLean	derek.mclean@unl.edu	NE	10/1/2025	9/30/2026
Perm. Alternate (ED)	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	1/1/2023	NA

agInnovation Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC) <https://escop.info/committee/blc/>

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
agInnovation North Central Member/BLC Incoming Chair (Chair in FFY2027)	Shibu Jose	joses@missouri.edu	MO	2025	TBD
agInnovation North Central Member	Rod Johnson	rwjohn@illinois.edu	IL	2026	TBD
Perm. Alternate (ED)/Executive Vice-Chair	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	1/1/2023	NA
Assistant Executive Vice Chair	Chris Hamilton	chamilton@wisc.edu	agInnovation North Central/WI	1/1/2025	TBD

agInnovation Science and Technology Committee (STC) <https://escop.info/committee/stc/>

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
agInnovation North Central Member	Frank Casey	francis.casey@ndsu.edu	ND	2021	TBD
agInnovation North Central Member	John Blanton	john.blanton@sdstate.edu	SD	2025	TBD

agInnovation Science and Technology Committee Social Science Subcommittee (SSSc), NC Members<https://escop.info/committee/social-sciences-subcommittee-sssc/>

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Agricultural Communication	Emily Buck	buck.210@osu.edu	OH		TBD
Agricultural Education	Mike Retallick	msr@iastate.edu	IA		TBD
Agricultural Education	Neil Knobloch	nknobloc@purdue.edu	IN		TBD
Co-Executive Vice Chair	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	1/1/2023	NA
Assistant Executive Vice Chair	Christina Hamilton	chamilton@wisc.edu	agInnovation North Central/WI	1/1/2023	NA

agInnovation NRSP1 Management Committee <https://escop.info/committee/nrsp-1-management-committee/>

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Lead AA/Perm Alternate	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	2023	TBD
agInnovation North Central Member/Chair	Christina Hamilton	chamilton@wisc.edu	agInnovation North Central/WI	2014	TBD

agInnovation National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee (NPGCC)<https://escop.info/committee/national-plat-germplasm-coordinating-committee-npgcc/>

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
agInnovation North Central Member	Danny Singh	singhak@iastate.edu	IA	2025	TBD

Other Appointments**North Central Rural Development Board (4-year term)**

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Purdue Rep (perm)	Ron Turco	rturco@purdue.edu	IN	2023	NA
AES Rep	Mary Emery	memery2@unl.edu	NE	2022	2026

North Central Regional Aquaculture Center Board of Directors (agInnovation North Central)

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
agInnovation North Central Member	Danny Singh	singhak@iastate.edu	IA	2025	TBD
agInnovation North Central Member (ED)	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	2023	TBD

FFAR (Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research Board)

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Member	Doug Buhler	buhler@msu.edu	MI	2014	TBD

North Central IPM Center – Steering Committee

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Member	Danny Singh	singhak@iastate.edu	IA	2025	TBD
Member	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	2023	TBD
Member	Marty Draper	maddr@ksu.edu	KS	2022	TBD

U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI) - Steering Committee (4-year term, renewable)

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>State</i>		<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Member	Joleen Hadrich	jhadrich@umn.edu	MN		2021?	12/1/2029