agInnovation North Central Officers and Standing Committee Members

(Link to Rules of Operation for committee descriptions)

Federal Fiscal Year (10/1 to 9/30): 2027

Last Updated: 8/24/2026

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	9/30/2027
Chair	Ron Turco	rturco@purdue.edu	IN	10/1/2026	9/30/2027

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	9/30/2027
Chair	Ron Turco	rturco@purdue.edu	IN	10/1/2026	9/30/2027
Chair Elect	Tala Awada	tawada@unl.edu	NE	10/1/2026	9/30/2027
MRC Chair	Tala Awada	tawada@unl.edu	NE	10/1/2026	9/30/2027
Member	Jamie Strange	strange.54@osu.edu	OH	9/1/2026	TBD
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	Tala Awada	tawada@unl.edu	NE	6/1/2023	9/30/2027
Member	Jane Schuh	jmschuh@ksu.edu	KS	10/1/2024	9/30/2028
Member	Danny Singh	singhak@iastate.edu	IA	10/1/2025	9/30/2029
Member	Kang Xia	xiakang@msu.edu	MI	10/1/2026	9/30/2030
Member	Frank Casey	francis.casey@ndsu.edu	ND	10/1/2026	9/30/2031
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
Ex-Officio (ED)	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	10/1/2022	9/30/2026

agInnovation NRSP Review Committee (NRSP-RC; 4-year term) https://escop.info/committee/nrsp-rc/

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
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/

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
Regional Chair/Rep	Ron Turco	rturco@purdue.edu	IN	10/1/2026	9/30/2027
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/

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
Regional Chair/Rep	Ron Turco	rturco@purdue.edu	IN	10/1/2026	9/30/2027
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/

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
agInnovation North Central Member/BLC Chair FFY27-29	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/

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
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/

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
Agricultural Communication	Emily Buck	buck.210@osu.edu	OH		TBD
Agricultural Education	Mike Retallick	msr@iastate.edu	IA		TBD
Agricultural Education (Member at Large)	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/

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
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	9/30/2027

agInnovation Nonprofit 501(c)(3) https://escop.info/committee/nonprofit/

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
Regional Member	Kang Xia	xiajkang@msu.edu	MI	8/1/2026	TBD
Perm. Alternate (ED)	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS		NA

agInnovation Finance Committee https://escop.info/committee/finance-committee/

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
Regional Member	Asheesh "Danny" Singh	singhak@iastate.edu	IA	8/26/2026	TBD
Sustaining Member (ED)	Jeanette Thurston	jthurston@ksu.edu	agInnovation North Central/KS	1/1/2023	NA

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

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

Other Appointments

North Central Rural Development Board (4-year term)

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
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)

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
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)

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
Member	Doug Buhler	buhler@msu.edu	MI	2014	TBD

North Central IPM Center – Steering Committee

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
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)

Position	*Name*	*Email*	*State*	*Start Date*	*End Date*
Member	Frank Casey	francis.casey@ndsu.edu	ND	2026	2030