



2026 MU Digital Agriculture Symposium Program

DAREC Research Day Program

July 27, 2026

Physical Address: Poehlmann Educational Center, Bradford Research Farm.

4968 S Rangeline Rd, Columbia, MO 65201

Zoom Link: Password: **123456**

<https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/5738822495?pwd=a043RyTLtb9SzHr1HZT86ppLvKqbvB.1&omn=95910815259>

scan the barcode to join



Opening Remarks 09:00 AM – 09:20 AM: Welcome

- Dr. Chris Daubert, Dr. Shibu Jose, and Dr. Heike Buecking

Program overview and DAREC Updates 09:20 AM – 09:30 AM

- Program overview and DAREC Updates: Dr. Jianfeng Zhou,

Session I 09:30 AM – 10:20 AM (Moderator: Jianfeng Zhou)

- Keynote: Kent Shannon, Assistant Teaching Professor & Co-Director, Field Specialist in Ag Engineering, Plant Science and Technology, University of Missouri
 - *Breaking barriers to digital agriculture technology adoption through collaboration*

10-min break

Session II 10:30 – 1140 am (Moderator: Curtis Ransom)

- **10:30 – 10:50 AM:** Ken Sudduth, Retired Ag Engineer, USDA-ARS (via Zoom)
 - *Perspectives on Digital Agriculture Technology Adoption*
- **10:50 – 11:10 AM:** Steve Cabbage, Founder & Leader Contributor at DownintheDirt.ai
 - *The Pencil and the Seed Corn Bag – Why AI in agriculture is a culture problem, not a technology problem*
- **11:10 – 11:30 AM:** Nick Monnig, Agronomist, Novus Nowledge Team – CCA
 - *Addressing Challenges to Farmer Adoption of Precision Technology*
- Mini panel - Q&A (10 min)

Lunch: 11:40 PM – 12:40 PM

Session III 12:40 – 1:50 PM (**Moderator: Jianfeng Zhou**)

- **12:40 - 1:00 PM:** John Sheppard, Distinguished Professor and Director, Numerical Intelligent Systems Laboratory, Montana State University (via ZOOM)
 - *Artificial Intelligence Advances Supporting Data Intensive Farm Management*
- **1:00 – 1:20 PM:** Tim Haithcoat, Director of MU Data Science and Analytics program

- *Taylor Geospatial Food Security Award - Project outline and status report on the build-out of a soil and landscape integrated database to support modeling*
- **1:20 – 1:40 PM:** Santosh Pitla, Professor and Associate Head for Research & Innovation, University of Nebraska–Lincoln (via ZOOM)
- *FIELD-AI: Robotics, Farmers, and Grounded Intelligence at the Center of Agricultural Autonomy*
- **1:40 – 1:50 PM:** Q&A (10 min)

Coffee break (10 min)

Session IV 12:40 – 1:50 PM (Moderator: Jianfeng Zhou)

- **2:00 – 2:20 PM:** Lance Conway, Soil Scientist, John Deere Intelligent Solutions Group
- *Ag Tech of the Future: From Precision Farming to Autonomy*
- **2:20 – 2:40 PM:** Toni Kazic, Professor at MU Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- *AI en route to Agriculture*
- **2:40 – 3:00 PM:** Jasmine Neupane, Assistant Professor, MU Plant Science and Technology
- *Precision Irrigation Management for Missouri Cropping Systems*
- **3:00 – 3:10 PM:** Q&A

Poster & Student Competition 3:10 – 5 PM (Moderator: Jasmine Neupane)

- **3:10 – 3:30 PM:** 1-min presentation
- **3:30 – 4:30 PM:** Poster Session (Student Competition)
- **4:30 - 5 PM:** Wrap up and Adjournment

2026 DAREC Technology Day Program

July 28, 2026

Physical Address: MU Digital Farm, Jefferson Farm and Garden
4800 E New Haven Rd, Columbia, MO 65201

Welcome & Opening Remarks 09:00 AM – 09:10 AM:

Field Tour / equipment tour 09:10 AM – 11:10 AM: Jianfeng Zhou & Kent Shannon

- **Field tour**
 - Five stops to demonstrate field research in digital agriculture technology
 - Led by Dr. Jasmine Neupane, Dr. Jianfeng Zhou, Prof. Kent Shannon, Dr. Curtis Ransom
- **Equipment tour**
 - Sydenstricker-Nobbe / John Deere Application Equipment
 - Crown Power Equipment - Case IH Planting Equipment
 - Agri Spray Drones – Newest in Application Drones
 - Modern Ag - Sabanto Autonomy, Precision Planting

Research demonstration and poster presentation 11:20 AM – 12 PM

Close remark and Box Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM