

Amaranth Institute 2026

La Conner, Washington, USA



Venues: La Conner Inn, WSU-BreadLab and WSU-North West REC

Schedule Day 1 - August 12 (La Conner Inn and WSU-Breadlab)

8:30am - 9 Registration at the La Conner Inn - Welcome at Two Forks Conference Room

9:00 - 9:20 Introduction - Amaranth Institute: What and Why? (Matthew Blair and Paul Galewski; How to add to the AI website (Niel Pyat, Virtual); Frontiers in Plant Science Sponsorship / Special Issue plan. (Matthew Blair and Alfredo Araujo)

Vegetable Amaranth

9:20 - 9:45 Speaker I: Vegetable Amaranth (Tori Rosen, Rutgers) ***Leafy Green Amaranth: Selection and Breeding to Meet Grower Needs and Consumer Expectations for US-based Production.*** (in person)

9:45 - 10:05 Speaker II: Vegetable Amaranth (Jay Bost, Appalachian State University; Lane Selman, Culinary Breeding Network) ***Vegetable Amaranth Making Agrobiodiversity Sexy: Amaranth Greens in the US Regional Food and Seed Scene.*** (in person)

10:05 – 10:30 Speaker III: Vegetable Amaranth (Mildred Osei, UDS-Ghana) ***Beyond Fresh Consumption: Vegetable Amaranths (Amaranthus spp.) in Food Product Innovation.*** (virtual)

10:30 – 10:55 Speaker IV: Entomology (Simon Zebelo, Univ. Maryland – Eastern Shore) ***Managing pigweed flea beetle using insecticides and trap crop in Amaranthus*** (in person)

Agronomy and Physiology

11:00 to 11:20 Amaranth Agronomy and Physiology I (Anamika Pandey, NCAT) ***Evaluating Moisture Stress Effects on Amaranth Yield and Antioxidant Capacity in Raised-bed Urban Systems*** (in person)

11:20 to 11:40 Amaranth Agronomy and Physiology II (Rekha Badu, TSU): ***High Resolution Phenotyping of Growth and Water Use Responses to Heat Stress in Five Grain Amaranth Cultivars*** (in person)

11:40 to 12:00 Amaranth Agronomy III: (Emily Jacobson and Svitlana Lymanska, TSU) ***Yield Potential of Grain Amaranth in Riverbottom Location in Tennessee*** (in person and virtual)

12:00: Lunch in La Conner (On your own - not sponsored, please go individually or in groups)

Food Security

1:00 – 1:20 Speaker I: Food Security III (Daniel Fairbanks, Utah Valley University) ***The History of Cultivated Grain Amaranths in the Old World*** (in person)

1:40 -2:00 Speaker II: Food Security I: (Vik Bensen, Whole Grains Council) ***Opportunities for Amaranth: Trends and Insights from the Whole Grains Council's Stamped Product Database*** (in person)

1:20 – 1:40 Speaker III: Food Security II: (Kevin Murphy, WSU) ***Role of Breadlab, Introduction to WSU / Region (what we will see today and tomorrow)*** (in person)

2:00 - 2:25 Speaker IV: Food Security IV: (Ivonne Sanchez del Pino, CICY-Yucatan) ***Amaranth in the Maya Sun: Overview and Recent Findings*** (virtual)

2:25 – 2:45 Afternoon Plan & Recipe Development (Lauren Chandler, Jay Bost)

Into the Field!

2:45 – 4:00 Drive and visit to [Verduras Mexicanas](#) (greens) Matthew B. to translate, followed by Breadlab

4:00 – 5:00 Breadlab tour (Kevin) / Cleaning and milling demo (Paul Galewski and Matthew Blair)

5:00 – 5:30 Demos - Alegria de Mexico (A. Araujo), Popping & Crackers (L. Chandler), Greens (B. Dingha), Sweets (M.Blair)

5:30 Pizza Making and Eating! (BYO beverages & pizza toppings)



Day 2 - August 13 (La Conner Inn in morning, then Auditorium - WSU NW Wash REC (Mt. Vernon))

8:30 am – registration Day II and pre-meeting snacks (breakfast amaranth products)

9:00 – 9:10 Opener: Day 2 welcome and review of Day 1 (Matthew Blair)

9:10 – 9:20 Opener: International Breeding (Sieglinda Snapp) Washington State University

Ancient Grain

9:20 – 9:40 Speaker 1: Ancient Grain (Yony Tito Qui, NCAT) ***From Roots to Global Boom - Individual and Collective Scientific Reflections on Quinoa in Peru and the Possible Applications on Transformation and Pest Dynamics in the US Southeast*** (in person)

9:40 – 10:00 Speaker II: Ancient Grain (Puru Natarajan, UMES): ***Integrated Phenomics and Genomics of North American Quinoa (Chenopodium quinoa Willd.) Genotypes Toward Pangenome Development and Agronomic Trait Dissection in Mid-Atlantic Production Environments*** (in person)

Novel Uses

10:00 – 10:25 Speaker I: Novel Uses: (Chance Riggins, U Illinois-CU) ***Overview of Research and Potential Applications of Natural Colorants From Amaranths.*** (in person)

10:25 - 10:50 Speaker II: Novel Uses (Alfredo Araujo, CICY-Mex) ***Ancient Roots to Modern Science of Huauhtli: Unlocking the Phytochemical Potential of Mesoamerican Sacred Amaranth*** (in person)

10:50 - 10:55 Webinar and Ferias of Amaranth in Mexico (Alfredo/Ivonne, CICY)

10:55 – 11:00 A conversation about Geosmin: Friend or Foe (Xavier Lem, UC-Berkeley)

International Updates

11:00 – 11:20 International Updates I (Adrian Argumedo. Colegio Postgrados – Puebla campus) ***Status of Amaranth Production and Popping Technology In Puebla, Mexico*** (virtual)

11:20 – 11:40 International Updates II (Prabha and Laxmi Joshi): ***Agromorphological Diversity and Disease Assessment of Grain Amaranth in Lamjung, Nepal*** (virtual from Auburn/TSU)

11:40 – 12:00 International Updates III (Beatriz Bustamente Arce, Jorge Mario Pardo Castro) ***Amaranth in Colombia: Validation of an Andean Pilot Crop in the Coffee-Growing Tropics — A SENA-TSU Cooperation***

12:00 – 12:25 International Updates IV (Carolyn Boykins, UVI) ***Insect Constraints on Amaranthus Cultivation in the U.S. Virgin Islands: from Callaloo to Feed for Small Ruminants and Poultry*** (in person)

12:25 – 12:35 pre-lunch break

12:40 Travel to WSU-NWREC Center - 16650 Hwy. WA-536, Mount Vernon - Sakuma Auditorium

1:00 Catered Lunch; Setup of Posters

Grain Amaranth

2:00 – 2:20 Grain Amaranth I: (David Brenner, Iowa State Univ, USDA) ***Amaranth Germplasm for Plant Breeding from the US National Plant Germplasm System*** (in person)

2:20 – 2:40 Grain Amaranth II: (Matthew Blair, Tennessee State Univ.) ***Differentiation of Andean and Mesoamerican Accessions in a USDA Core Collection of Grain Amaranths*** (in person)

2:40 – 3:00 Grain Amaranth II (Walt Sumner, UMSL) ***Soil Management Effects on Amaranth Composition***

3:00 – 3:15 Talk about trials/grow out (Kevin Murphy, WSU) (in person)

3:15 – 4:00 Visit grain fields (Amaranth, Quinoa, Spring Barley, Spring Wheat)

4:00: Poster Session summaries (5 minutes summary) (in person)

4:00 – 4:30 Poster Session Viewing and other Demo such as Seeder/Combine (Paul and Matthew)

- Breakout I: Recipe development /Cooking Innovations / Fancy Desserts (Chocolates w Rekha)
- Breakout II: Managing grain amaranth seeds. Lessons from Quinoa. Innovation needs. Optical cleaning.
- Breakout III: Discussion on Agronomic Issues /Crop Development
- Breakout IV: Private Sector Collaborations

5:00 – 5:30 Wrap up and Amaranth Institute Elections

5:30 – 6:00 Return to La Conner and free time

6:00 – 6:15 Assemble for dinner La Connor Inn lobby (Emily leads us)

6:30 – Light Dinner (La Conner Pub & Eatery)

Day 3 - August 14 - La Connor Inn

9 to 10:30 Amaranth Institute meeting, New Board Members, Other International Engagements

TBD: Other Country Highlights (Tanzania – Elibariki and Sabine, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe – Lillian)

(virtual) WorldVeg and AVRDC (Tanzania – Alfred); Adding to AI web (Neil)

Private Sector Acknowledgements / Iowa Food Lab: Kurt A. Rosentrater (virtual)

10:30 Break

11:00 Check out from hotel

11:30 Shuttle with Emily to SEA-TAC airport or visit to Amaranth Flower Farm: Floret (30-minute drive)

4:00 Shuttle with Matthew to Mt. Vernon or SEA-TAC

Important Addresses and Phone Numbers:

La Conner Lodge (adjacent hotel) 205 N 1st St, La Conner, WA 98257 (360) 466-1500	La Conner Inn 107 S 2nd St, La Conner, WA 98257 (360) 466-3101
WSU Breadlab 11768 Westar Ln. Unit E Burlington, WA 98233	WSU NW Wash REC (360) 848-6120 16650 Hwy. WA-536 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Event Contact: Dr. Matthew Blair 615-554-4139

