

UFSS 2026 Call for Abstracts

The Organizing Committee for the 2026 Urban Food Systems Symposium invites you to submit an abstract for consideration as an oral or poster presentation. The 2026 symposium will be held September 14-17 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The theme for the symposium is *Cultivating Communities, Cities, and Food Systems*. This multi-day symposium brings together a national and international audience of academic, non-profit, government, and research-oriented professionals to share and gain knowledge on urban food systems. Presentations should address the theme via the topics listed below.

- Resiliency and environmental aspects of urban agriculture
- Urban agriculture production (e.g. growing food indoors, outdoors, and on rooftops, challenges of growing in urban areas)
- Training and education (e.g., farmers, food processors, educators, students) in urban food systems
- Urban food distribution systems
- Institutional food procurement/farm to school
- Urban food waste and compost systems
- Community and economic development
- Connecting urban consumers with agriculture
- Nutrition and human health of urban communities
- Food security and food safety
- Food system policy, planning, and advocacy
- Extension and outreach in urban food systems

Important Dates in 2026:

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| • Abstract submission opens: | October 20 |
| • Deadline for abstract submission: | March 4 March 18 |
| • Acceptance notification: | May 5 |
| • Early bird registration opens: | May 20 |
| • Presenter registration deadline: | June 5 |
| • Deadline for early bird registration: | July 16 |
| • Deadline for manuscript submission: | September 25 |
| • Deadline for full paper review and modification: | January 10 (2027) |

Abstracts should clearly align with the theme and focus areas and be targeted to address research, education, and extension/or community development programs in urban food systems.

Abstracts should fall into the format categories of oral presentation or poster presentation.

Oral presentations will be 15 minutes in length. Each speaker will have an additional 5 minutes for questions and answers. LCD projectors and computers will be provided.

Poster presenters will be expected to be at their poster for discussion during the scheduled poster event. Free-standing boards will be provided for displaying posters. Maximum poster size is 48 inches x 48 inches. Handouts may be used, and all posters must include the poster title and author information. Tacks will be provided.

Abstracts **must** be submitted online via the UFSS 2026 website. Do not email your file to the organizers, as it will not be included in the review and scheduling process.

Abstract Preparation and Submission Instructions:

- English is the symposium's official language; all abstracts are to be submitted in English. The organizers reserve the right to edit all abstracts for English usage.
- Abstracts must be original work, and all author(s) approve submitting the work for presentation.
- Only submit abstracts for work that is complete.
- The presenting author must submit the abstract.
- Submissions are limited to one **oral** presentation per presenting author.
- Abstracts are limited to 400 words, single-spaced. Text only and no graphs or figures.
- Keep **titles** as concise as possible. Type title in upper and lower case, standard title format.

To submit an abstract, complete the online submission **form** located [HERE](#). For more information about submitting abstracts, contact UFSS@ksu.edu.

Selection Process

Abstracts will be reviewed by the scientific committee after the submission deadline. Presentations and posters will be selected based on relevance to the Urban Food Systems Symposium and the abstract quality. All abstracts are subject to the same evaluation criteria.

Notification of Presentation Status and Format

Submitters will be notified by **May 5, 2026**, of their acceptance to the symposium program and their designated presentation format.

Presenter Registration

All presenters must register and pay for the UFSS conference by **June 5, 2026**, or their abstract will be withdrawn.

Manuscript Submission

All oral and poster presenters, including invited and keynote speakers, will have the option to submit a manuscript for publication in the [Symposium Proceedings](#). Manuscripts must be submitted by **September 25, 2026**, via New Prairie Press.

If you have questions about submitting an abstract, please email UFSS@ksu.edu