

Agricultural Business Club at Iowa State University

Main Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2026

The regular meeting of the Iowa State University Agricultural Business Club was held on January 29th, 2026, in Curtiss 0127. President Lainey DeVries called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

There were 91 members present.

Officer Reports:

- **Secretary:** The minutes of the December meeting were briefed by Chelsea Holland. Approved by club members.
- **Treasurer:** Everett Carlson announced the current balance available is \$100,844.25. Approved by club members.
- **CALS Council:** Cale Kirstein and Elias Fulkerson announced Sustainapalooza, Tuesday March 3rd 5-8 pm in the Memorial Union, Great Hall.
- **Reporters:** Ava Liebfried and Kennedy DeVries announced their social media updates. They also shared their meet the executive team video.
- **Logistics Coordinators:** Erik Steen and Callie Huber asked for recommendations for future food at the meetings.

Committee Reports:

- **Ag Alliance:** Introduced their committee. More updates to come closer to end of semester/fall.
- **Banquet:** Saturday March 7th is the Banquet. Brunch will be served. There will be limited parking spots. Tickets will be available for purchase in Heady Hall. \$15 for club members, \$25 for guests. Baquet 2027 introduced their committee.
- **CALS Career Day:** Introduced their committee.
- **New Member Engagement:** Chairs on study abroad. Updates to come in the fall semester.
- **Philanthropy and Service:** Introduced their committee.
- **Professional Meetings:** Introduced their committee.
- **Publicity:** Introduced their committee. If anyone has ideas for merchandise, reach out to Eva Beck or other committee members.
- **Recruitment and Social:** Introduced their committee. Also announced their Super Bowl Prediction event to be filled out at the meeting. Winner receives \$25 at the February meeting! Reach out to Macey McKenna for more details.
- **Sponsor Relations:** Introduced their committee.
- **Travel:** Introduced their committee.

Industry Speaker: Molly Bruene, Merck Animal Health

Molly Bruene is a swine sales representative with Merck Animal Health, specializing in herd health solutions for pork producers across the Eastern Iowa. She collaborates closely with veterinarians, production managers, and farm teams to match product innovation with on-farm realities—prioritizing animal welfare, biosecurity, and ROI. Molly helps clients navigate product selection, implementation, and training, ensuring consistent results and compliance with industry standards. At Merck Animal Health, she leverages the company’s portfolio and technical resources to address challenges from birth to harvest, with a focus on prevention, performance, and sustainability. Molly is passionate about building long-term relationships and bringing measurable value to the producers who feed our communities. Outside of her day-to-day work, she stays engaged with the cattle industry, riding horses, and keeping up her busy family.

Meet the Faculty: Tara Fisher, Director for Student Services & Success for College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Tara Fisher is currently an Assistant Director for Student Services and Success for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. She is from Murray, Iowa where she grew up on a cattle feedlot and row crop operation. She started her journey at Iowa State University in 2002, majoring in psychology. She became a teaching assistant to Dr. Gary Wells in the Department of Psychology and graduated in 2006. Tara took on several roles within the Ivy College of Business, including serving as an academic advisor. In December of 2024, she moved into her current role, where she actively supports CALS students and advisors. Tara is passionate about student success, ensuring students feel supported and engaged during their time at Iowa State University.

New Business:

- 2026 Budget
- 2026 Executive Team Goals

Member Recognition

- Member of the Month: Bridgett Murphy
- New Member of the Month: Emma Schipper
- Old Member of the Month: Kelsey Burke

Advisor Comments: John Reasoner – Faculty Advisor

- John Reasoner gave advice for getting through the spring semester and shared some of his New Year’s resolutions. He watched 123 movies last year and has a goal of running a 10K by the end of 2026.

Drawings:

- Are you here: Luke Paplow won \$50. Drawing will be worth \$50 at the next meeting.

- Wheel of Fortune: Leo Hammerand won \$30 from the “S”. Congratulations!

Announcements: ABC Outstanding Member Awards and Scholarships are open on the OneApp. This application is due February 15th, 2026.

- Awards available are Outstanding Freshman, Outstanding Sophomore, Outstanding Junior, Outstanding Senior, Overall Senior, and Key Contributor. Class scholarships available include 1-4 for freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, and transfer. Make sure to apply!

Upcoming Activities:

| Activity | Date | Time |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| February Meeting | Thursday, February 19 th | 5:30 Social, 6:00 Meeting |
| Club Banquet | Saturday, March 7 th | 8:30 Check-In, 9:00 Program |
| March Meeting | Thursday, March 26 th | 5:30 Social, 6:00 Meeting |
| Leadership Dinner | Tuesday, April 14 th | 5:30 Welcome, 6:00 Dinner |
| Jim Knuth Lecture | Wednesday, April 22 nd | 6:00 Social, 6:30 Lecture |
| April Meeting | Thursday, April 23 rd | 5:30 Social, 6:00 Meeting |

President Lainey DeVries adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.