

# 2025 MCIA Annual Meeting—Speakers

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**Shane Frederick**  
Manager of Strategic Programs, Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance  
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Shane Frederick is the Manager of Strategic Programs for the Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance (SSGA), the business alliance of identity preserved agriculture in the United States and the leading voice for the industry that delivers traceable, high-quality, variety-specific field crops to food markets worldwide. Its members include producers, processors, suppliers, and transportation allies whose work ensures integrity throughout the supply chain.

A Certified Professional Project Manager (CPPM), Frederick's roles include managing the U.S. Identity Preserved assurance plan and brand program and promoting it to U.S. suppliers and international buyers and food manufacturers. He also manages SSGA University, the organization's agronomy action team, and other projects. Shane has been in his current role since November 2021 after joining SSGA as its communications manager in April 2020. Previously, Shane spent more than 25 years working as a newspaper reporter and editor for multiple publications. He has a B.A. in journalism from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.



**Mitch Hunter**  
Co-Director, Forever Green Initiative  
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Mitch Hunter, PhD, is Co-Director of the Forever Green Initiative at the University of Minnesota and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics. Forever Green is developing and improving winter-hardy annual and perennial crops that protect soil and water while driving new economic opportunities for growers, industry, and rural communities. Hunter oversees research and development efforts for a portfolio of over 15 novel crops—including two winter oilseeds (winter camelina and pennycress) with high potential as low-carbon biofuel feedstocks.



**Matthew Kelley**  
Product Manager/Buyer for Forages and Cover Crops, Agassiz Seed & Supply  
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Matt Kelley has been with Agassiz Seed and Supply for a little over 11 years serving in various roles. He has been the product manager and buyer of annual and perennial forages, including cover crops, for approximately 7 years.



**Stephanie McLain**

**Soil Health Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service**

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Stephanie is the Soil Health Specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Minnesota. She works to educate NRCS employees, farmers, landowners, conservation partners, ag professionals, and policy leaders about the benefits of soil health in our cropping systems. Stephanie delivers hands-on technical assistance on cover crops, no-till or reduced till, crop rotations, soil function, and other topics related to building soil health management systems and implementing soil health principles on the landscape.



**Michael Merriman**

**Seed and Biotechnology Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Agriculture**

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Michael Merriman serves as Minnesota’s Seed Control Official and supervises the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s Seed Regulatory Program. In this role, he ensures compliance with the Minnesota Seed Law and Federal Seed Act. He leads a team of five district inspectors and two administrative staff dedicated to conducting inspections, enforcing regulations, and promoting consumer protection and fair trade in the seed industry.

Michael holds a master of science in biology from the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse and a bachelor of science in biology from the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities. With extensive experience in seed program management, noxious weed regulation, plant pest surveys, and biotechnology oversight, Michael brings a strong background of regulatory work and plant sciences to Minnesota’s seed stakeholders.



**Alex Udermann**

**Farmer, Meadowbrook Dairy Inc.**

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Meadowbrook Dairy Inc. is owned and operated by the Udermann family of Sartell, Minnesota. Fifth generation operation: dairy, beef, row crop, custom liquid/solid manure hauling, and custom no-till planting/cover crop seeding. We sell beef directly to the general public. Our goal is to raise our beef in the most regenerative way we can. Our practices include 100 percent no till on all crops: corn, soybeans, alfalfa, small grains, and grass hay. We plant cover crops on as many acres as possible yearly, weather permitting. The farm is enrolled in the Conservationist Stewardship Program (CSP) and was the first in Minnesota to receive all five state endorsements from the Minnesota water quality certification program.