

# 65th Annual Board of Delegates Meeting



**U.S. GRAINS  
COUNCIL**



**Grand Rapids, MI | July 30- August 1, 2025**



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN



Dear Members,

Please join us at the 65th Annual Board of Delegates Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, July 30 – Friday, Aug. 1, 2025, in Grand Rapids, MI.

While we Cultivate the Future, we will also take a look back as we celebrate 65 years of the U.S. Grains Council! You'll have the opportunity to engage with leaders from the past and present, learn the history of this great organization as told by those who lived it and get a glimpse of where the organization is heading...all culminating with an official vote on the proposed organizational name amendment – the U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council. It's one that officially embraces all the products we represent now and in the future and will guide us in the work we do for many years to come.

My chairwoman's theme perfectly encapsulates this meeting because you will also have an opportunity to engage with members of the Council's staff and get a firsthand understanding of what the Council is doing for you now and for future generations as it helps to shape our industry.

While in Grand Rapids, you will have direct input to help us establish priorities in the coming year and guide the Council's



efforts to enhance trade in the global markets in which we work. You will get market updates, work in Advisory Teams and sectors and provide recommendations that impact how the Council develops markets, enables trade and improves lives.

We are so excited to welcome you in Grand Rapids, looking forward to getting to work with you and collaboratively creating plans to advance coarse grains and ethanol marketing around the world.

After our few, but important days together, you will leave knowing the Council is cultivating the future today by laying the groundwork to develop markets, enable trade and improve lives around the world for generations to come.

I look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Ulibarri'.

Verity Ulibarri | Chairwoman



# YOUR PLANNING GUIDE



*The U.S. Grains Council will be holding its 65th Board of Delegates Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the Amway Grand Plaza.*

## Hotel Reservations

Amway Grand Plaza  
Curio Collection by Hilton  
187 Monroe NW  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Make reservations online at the [Council's website](#), or by calling the hotel's reservations department at +1 616-774-2000 and mentioning the U.S. Grains Council meeting to receive the discounted rate. **The reservations deadline is Monday, June 23, 2025.** After this date, the hotel will accept reservations on a space-available basis. The Council has negotiated a room rate of \$179 USD per night, single or double occupancy, plus a 15 percent tax. Check-in time is 3 p.m.; check-out time is 11 a.m.

SCAN TO  
RESERVE



## Ground Transportation

Amway Grand Plaza is located fourteen (14) miles to Gerald R. Ford International Airport (airport code: GRR). Transportation to the hotel via taxi will cost approximately \$40 USD one-way. Uber or Lyft are available at an estimated cost of \$30 - \$35 USD one-way.

## Attire

Business casual attire is appropriate for all meetings. Casual attire with comfortable shoes is appropriate for tours. The offsite event will be casual attire. In Grand Rapids, the average high temperature for July is 83 degrees and average low is 61 degrees.



# THE MEETING AGENDA



## Tuesday, July 29

### AFTERNOON

**Optional Tour:** Downtown Grand Rapids Museum Walking Tour

Board of Directors Meeting

A-Team and Board Liaison Meeting

## Wednesday, July 30

### MORNING

**Introducing the Council Breakfast:** This session is designed for first time attendees to meet USGC board and staff members and learn how to take full advantage of the USGC membership meeting. *By invitation only.*

**Checkoff/USGC Staff Breakfast:** Checkoff and USGC staff convene. *By invitation only.*

**General Session:** Start the day with a welcome to Grand Rapids. Hear from speakers who are giving us up-to-date information on trade, current topics and our markets.

**Spouse/Guest Welcome Breakfast:** Join old friends and make new ones at this welcome for spouses and guests. There is no charge for this event, but registration is required.

### AFTERNOON

**A-Team Meetings:** USGC Advisory Teams (A-Teams), the backbone of the Council, guide strategy and key topics related to Asia, Ethanol, Innovation and Sustainability, Middle East/Africa/South Asia, Trade Policy, Value-Added and Western Hemisphere. Those who are not members of an A-Team are encouraged to sit in on these sessions to learn more about USGC programs.

### EVENING

**Welcome Reception:** Join fellow USGC members at an evening reception – a great opportunity to network with industry colleagues, get acquainted with members and talk with USGC staff.



# THE MEETING AGENDA



## Thursday, July 31

### MORNING

**Sector Meetings:** Discuss issues with colleagues and USGC staff during meetings organized by sector: Agribusiness/Ethanol, Barley, Corn, General Farm Organizations or Sorghum.

**General Session:** Join council staff and experts to continue exploring opportunities, challenges and issues affecting international trade and market access.

### LATE MORNING

**Optional Activity:** Lavender Life Farm Tour

### AFTERNOON

**Breakout Sessions:** Come together for the opportunity to discuss regional trade policy updates in concurrent breakout sessions.

### EVENING

**Networking Event:** Wildwood Family Farms

## Friday, August 1

### MORNING

**Board of Delegates Meeting:** The Council's business meeting will include presentations to the USGC Board of Delegates on priorities and key takeaways from their breakout sessions in A-teams and sectors, voting on bylaw change and elections.

### LATE MORNING/AFTERNOON

Board of Directors and A-Team Leaders Meeting

**Optional Tour:** Taste of GR Foodie Tour

# OPTIONAL TOURS & EVENTS



Tuesday, July 29

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## **DOWNTOWN GRAND RAPIDS MUSEUM WALKING TOUR**

**\$75 USD**

Step into history, indulge in sweet delights, and immerse yourself in culture on this guided walking tour through Grand Rapids! Just a short walk from Amway Grand Plaza, discover the legacy of the 38th President and Grand Rapids native, Gerald R. Ford. After visiting the Presidential Museum, stroll over to Michigan-made Kilwins in the historic McKay Tower. Enjoy a scoop of handcrafted ice cream in a building that dominated the city's skyline for 80 years. Finish at the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM), the world's first LEED Gold-certified art museum, where inspiring exhibits and stunning collections await.

*Includes museum admission, guided tour, and a locally sourced tour snack.*

Thursday, July 31

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## **LAVENDER LIFE FARM TOUR**

**\$110 USD**

Escape to the serene beauty of Lavender Life Farm for a day of relaxation and discovery! Lavender Life Farm, located in Caledonia, Michigan, is a serene retreat just 20 minutes south of downtown Grand Rapids. It features six acres of lavender fields, tranquil ponds, waterfalls, and wildflower gardens. Learn about the mission behind Lavender Life and how this family-run farm brings wellness and purpose to everything they grow and create. Tour the serene farm grounds and take in the relaxing scent of blooming lavender. Then, indulge in a delicious farm-to-table lunch, crafted with seasonal ingredients and infused with the delicate, floral notes of lavender. Discover how this versatile herb can elevate your cooking during a live culinary demonstration, and leave feeling nourished and inspired—mind, body, and palate.

*Includes round trip transportation, culinary demonstration, full access to the farm, and lunch.*



# OPTIONAL TOURS & EVENTS



Thursday, July 31

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## **NETWORKING EVENT: WILDWOOD FAMILY FARMS**

**\$130 USD - GUEST ONLY**

Nestled in Alto, Michigan, just 30 minutes southeast of Grand Rapids, Wildwood Family Farms is a picturesque 8-acre property offering a serene pond, wooded areas, and vibrant flower gardens. As the sun sets over the picturesque farm, guests will be invited to enjoy an elevated farm-to-table dinner while connecting with the local Grand Rapids farming community. Throughout the evening, a local band will provide lively entertainment, setting the perfect atmosphere for connection and relaxation.

*Includes round trip transportation, full access to the farm, live music, and dinner.*

Friday, August 1

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## **TASTE OF GR FOODIE TOUR**

**\$85 USD**

Discover the vibrant flavors of Grand Rapids, MI, on an unforgettable walking food tour! As you stroll through the heart of the city, indulge in delicious bites at local hot spots and hidden gems. In between stops our knowledgeable guides will share fun facts about the rich history and artistic flair of the city. It's not just a tasting tour; it's a culinary adventure! It's the perfect way to experience Grand Rapids one delicious step at a time!

*Includes tour guide and VIP access to 3 local eateries.*

