



**RCAS Winter Meeting- Irving, TX
Westin Irving Convention Center
February 2 - 4, 2025**

Online RegFox Registration Link for Winter Meeting

<https://rcas.regfox.com/rcas-winter-2025-meeting-irving-tx>

Hotel Deadline to reserve at group rate: FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025, by 6:00 pm CST.

2025 SAAS Conference Hotels

The Westin Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas

400 West Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75039

Texican Court

500 West Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75039

Both Conference hotels are within walking distance (across the street) from the Irving Convention Center.

The Westin:

FOR LODGING RESERVATIONS AT THE WESTIN:

To make reservations by phone, **call 877-619-2539** and be sure to ask for the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists group rate. You can also say SAA group rate.

To make reservations online at the SAAS group rate click this dedicated link: **Book your group rate for Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists**

Deadline to reserve at group rate: FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025, by 6:00 pm CST.

SAAS Group Rates: \$179/+ tax double/single/triple/quad rooms. No resort fee.

Check in: 3:00 pm - Check out: 11:00 am

HOTEL PARKING: The Westin has a parking garage adjacent to the hotel. Self-parking is available for \$18/day. Valet parking is available for \$24/day. Prices include in-and-out privileges for in-house guests only. Rates are subject to change without notice.

THE WESTIN HOTEL AMENITIES:

Group Rate will be honored for 3 days before and 3 days after conference dates of Jan 30-Feb 4 for visiting/sightseeing, if available.

Internet: Complimentary internet in guestrooms for [Marriott Bonvoy](#) Members.

Fitness Center: Complimentary access to hotel's fitness center.

[The Westin](#) website for information purposes only. See above for lodging registration information.

Texican Court:

FOR LODGING RESERVATIONS AT TEXICAN COURT:

To make reservations by phone, **call toll free 833-839-4226** (You MUST identify yourself as with Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists to obtain the group rate.)

To make reservations online, go to the Hotel's website: **www.texicancourt.com**. (NOTE: ***Check back later for a Group Block Code to register online.***)

NOTE: Cancellations must be made 48 hours before the scheduled day of arrival to avoid a one night cancellation fee.

Deadline to reserve at group rate: FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025, by 6:00 pm CST.

SAAS Group Rates: \$119/night for single/double; for triple/quad add \$20/person/night for the 3rd and 4th person.

Check in 3:00 pm; check out is 12 Noon.

TEXICAN COURT HOTEL AMENITIES:

Group Rate will be honored for 2 days before and 2 days after conference dates of Jan 30-Feb 4 for visiting/sightseeing, if available.

Breakfast: Complimentary Continental Breakfast served daily in the Two Mules Cantina.

Wi-Fi: Complimentary Wi-Fi in all public areas, overnight guestroom, and throughout the meeting and event spaces.

Internet: Complimentary Internet. However, some services are considered premium and may incur additional fees.

Self-Parking: Complimentary daily overnight self-parking based on availability.

(Note: If luggage assistance is needed, there is a portage fee of \$6 round trip fee that will be incurred by the guest. Gratuities go directly to the employee responsible for the delivery.)

NOTE: Texican rooms include a full-size non-locking retro-inspired refrigerator with fully-stocked Honor Bar. A fee will be charged for any item removed from the refrigerator.

NOT PERMITTED: Open flame, confetti, rice, or the placement of items to any walls. If found in violation, an \$800 clean up fee will be added to the guest's final invoice.


[Texican Court](#) website for information only. See above for lodging registration information.

RCAS Winter Meeting Agenda – February 2 - 4, 2025

Sunday, February 2nd

- 1:30 PM Registration- Meeting Room 4
- 2:00 PM Executive Business Meeting
- 6:00 PM Dinner (on your own)

Monday, February 3rd

- 8:00-8:30 AM Check-in & Refreshments- Junior Ballroom B
- 8:30-8:45 AM Welcome & Introduction President RCAS, Sherry Surette, Mississippi State University
- 8:45-9:00 AM Texas Agriculture Update
Cliff Lamb, [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#)
- 9:00-9:30 AM Long Term Vision of RECs – land use, how to plan for infrastructure, Advisory Groups and Innovative Ways to reach Stakeholders and Commodity Groups – Stephen Cisneros, [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#)
- 9:30-10:00 AM Break
- 10:00-10:30 AM What to do with an aging building or equipment? Innovative Ways to Budget/Plan for Equipment and Buildings with Inflation.
- 10:30-11:00 AM Leadership Development Programs to train the next generation of Directors and Staff – Kelly Essler, [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#)
- 11:00-11:30 AM Update on Hurricane Season 2024, Florida and North Carolina
Jerry Fankhauser, UF/IFAS and Teresa Lambert, NCDA&CS
<https://www.zeffy.com/donation-form/d49cb2f7-4507-4bf0-bde8-26c3d1d71f95>
-  QR code for RCAS Member Hurricane Support
- 11:30-12:00 PM The Future of Artificial Intelligence in Texas Agriculture – Juan Landivar, [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#)

12:00 -1:30 PM	Lunch (on your own)
1:30 -2:00 PM	IT and Data Management at an REC – Ways to get information back to main campus, storage of data, and sharing of data – Trevor Quick, Jevon Smith, and Brendan Riddle, NC State University
2:00 -2:30 PM	Farm Bill – Increase in Research Infrastructure – Joe Outlaw, Texas A&M AgriLife Research
2:30-3:00 PM	Marketing of REC Crops – Yuri Calil, Texas A&M AgriLife Research
3:00-3:30 PM	Break
3:30-4:00 PM	Rutgers 2025 Summer Meeting Overview - Peter Oudemans, Rutgers University
4:00-5:00 PM	RCAS General Business Meeting – Sherry Surette, Mississippi State University

Tuesday, February 4th – Dallas/Ft. Worth Bus Tour

Depart: 8:00 AM	Irving Convention Center 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd, Irving, TX 75039
Arrive: 8:45 AM	Stop 1 – Texas A&M Agrilife Center R&E Center, Dallas 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX 75252 (30 min drive) Depart: 10:00am
Arrive: 10:45 AM	Stop 2 – Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, TX 75218 (35 min drive) Lunch (on your own) – Restaurant DeGolyer Depart: 1:00pm
Arrive: 1:30 PM	Stop 3 – Bonton Farms – Urban Agriculture 12400 Ravenview Rd, Dallas, TX 72553 (25 min drive) Depart: 2:15pm
Arrive: 3:30 PM	Fort Worth Stock Yards 131 E. Exchange Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76164 (1 hr. drive) 4:00 – Historic Cattle Drive 5:30pm - Dinner – Cooper’s Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que 301 Stockyards Blvd., Fort Worth, TX

- Awards Presentations- Joe Davlin- Awards Committee Chair
- Passing of the Gavel- Sherry Surette/Jim Boyer

Depart: 7:00pm

Arrive: 7:30 PM

Irving Convention Center
500 W. Las Colinas Blvd, Irving, TX 75039 (30 min drive)