

National Association of Institutional Agribusiness

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www.naiaweb.com

The National Association of Institutional Agribusiness (NAIA) strives to meet the educational, networking, and professional growth needs of its membership, which is comprised of correctional and other institutional agribusiness professionals employed by federal, state and local institutions.

NEWSLETTER



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*Photo provided by Arkansas Department of Corrections

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Arkansas!

As we start 2025, lets take a moment and give thanks for all the blessings of 2024. 2024 gave us our share of trials but also a lot of blessings. It's just in our nature as farmers that we see every new year as a new opportunity. We at the NAIA have a great opportunity before us to tell our story in 2025. There are some exciting things in the future for NAIA. We are in the process of upgrading our web page. We are looking at a new logo for our organization. Amy continues to do an amazing job with the newsletter and gathering articles from our states showing our successes. It is my hope and prayer that all of these steps will shine the light on NAIA and the great work being done in each state.

I encourage everyone to mark your calendars for September 8th-12th. Arkansas will host our annual conference in Hot Springs Arkansas. We are hoping to make this a great conference but we will need everyone's help to make that happen. We have sent out the first round of information to our vendor list so don't delay getting signed up. The beautiful Hotel Hot Springs will be our host for the week. They are located within walking distance of Historic Bath House Row and downtown attractions. The hotel is working with us and will allow our vendors to keep their booths open the entire week if they chose. This will allow more time to network with everyone.

We want to see everyone in Arkansas this year!

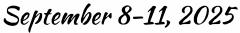


DAVEY FARABOUGH FARM ADMINISTRATOR DIVISION OF CORRECTION Arkansas Department of Corrections 2540 Hwy 388 Gould, Arkansas 71643 Phone: (870) 850-8453 | Cell: (870) 692-6353 David.Farabough@doc.arkansas.gov

















Photos courtesy of http://hotsprings.org Audrey Smith and Mikel Hickerson

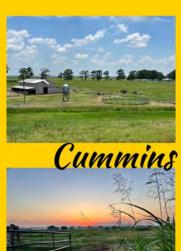


















2025 CONFERENCE AGENDA

Hot Springs, Arkansas

Monday, September 8, 2025

2:00 -	5:30 p.m.	Registration
4:00 -	5:00 p.m.	NAIA Board Meeting
5:00 -	7:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast provided
8:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Vendor Trade Show Presentations/Educational Sessions
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch provided
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Vendor Trade Show Presentations/Networking/Group Discussion
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Dinner Reception

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Breakfast provided	
8:00 - 12;00 p.m. Travel & Farm Tours	
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch provided	
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Farm Tours (Continued)	
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner on the Farm provid	ed
7:15 - 8:30 p.m. Travel back to Hotel	

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Own

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast provided
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast/Business Meeting
10:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Training Sessions, Networking/Lunch on
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	NAIA Board Meeting
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Banquet

Friday, September 12, 2025

7:00 -	8:30 a.m.	Breakfast on your own
8:30 -	9:30 a.m.	NAIA Board Meeting

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NAIA PURPOSE: "To promote the pooling and sharing of meaningful information; to preserve the integrity of institutional agribusiness; and to provide the resources for personal development of agribusiness professionals."

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Incarcerated Individuals Receive Rehabilitation and Hope through Agriculture

Article Submitted By: Davey Farabough, Farm Administrator, Arkansas Department of Corrections



There are more than 200 job positions for class 1B inmates throughout the Agriculture Division of the Arkansas Department of Corrections. Positions are highly sought after by many housed in Arkansas prisons since these jobs offer education and hands-on work experience that can be used upon release. Incarcerated Individuals get invaluable training while still serving their time, and they gain a sense of worth knowing they are bettering themselves.

There are a variety of jobs on ADC farms that incarcerated individuals do in conjunction with ADC staff. These individuals may be assigned to work in farm maintenance, poultry processing, horse barn, dairy processing, beef herd, gardening, or a variety of other locations within the division. Select incarcerated individuals have the opportunity to go to the Farrier School, located at the Cummins Unit, and use those skills to operate their own farrier business once released.

When asked, incarcerated individuals with a position on the farm take pride in the work they do every day. We spoke with a few inmates working at the Cummins Farm, and here is what they had to say:

Terrance "B" Bannister

"B" had been with the beef herd at the Cummins and Wrightsville farms since March 2022. He has also worked

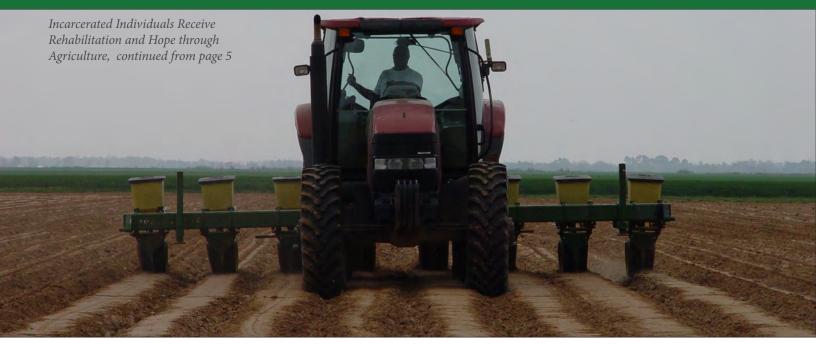


in vegetable processing at the Varner Unit and various other jobs at other units. We spoke to him as he was saddling up the horses to go out and check cattle:

"There's different jobs out here so you don't have to do the same job or profession, it all depends on what fits you. You can switch between jobs if you want to and if they need you. It's a lot of trade work out here you can pick up that is valuable in the community. Just working with horses is worth a lot of money...it's time consuming, but it's worth a lot of money on the outside. Everyone is given the same opportunities if you fit the qualifications. We (inmates) are all here for a reason. So, we all have to stay positive and work towards your goals and keep God first."

continued on page 6

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS





Thomas Corley

Corley has worked with or as field utility, building maintenance, farm maintenance, farm garage, rice squad, farrier, and scale house. We spoke with Corley as two 18-wheelers were coming through to be weighed at the scale house.

"I like my job because I'm not behind the fence all day. I'm out here in the fresh air and this is the most freedom I got. I've worked just about every place on this farm in the last 30 years. I started in outside maintenance, then I went to farm garage, farm office, rice squad and now the scale house. I have a sense of value with this job. This right here (the scale house) is important to the farm. If you don't like this job, you'll screw up, and I like my job."

Ricky "Doo Doo" Brown

"Doo Doo Brown" worked at the Wrightsville Farm in 1987-1988, at the Cummins Farm he worked with field security/fence crew in 1993-1994 and 2001-2011, vegetable processing at Benton Unit in 1995, and rice squad/farm maintenance since 2014 at the Cummins Farm. We spoke to him as he worked on a tractor at the farm garage.

"I did farm work most of my life, for 18 years out in the free world. I've been on the garage squad for about 13 and a half years and they asked me back again. It's a good thing to get out of that building because there can be trouble in there. Also, it's something that I like to do that I have done all my life. I get to operate high dollar equipment which means I got to take care of it or I'll end up working on high dollar equipment (laughs). I mean it's a good feeling to be out here working and helping the farm out where I can."



MONTANA CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES

Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE) in partnership with the Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) Creates Safer and Healthier Forests

Article Submitted By: Ross Wagner, Bureau Chief, Montana Correctional Enterprises



MCE), in partnership with the Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC), is responsible for the forest and timber growth, health and management on the Prison Ranch. To maintain the forest health, improve wildlife habitat, increase livestock forage, and most importantly, reduce fire hazard, timber thinning is an important part of improving tree growth and forest management. Timber sales are completed, usually every 3 to 5 years, based on the timber stand (basic unit of a forest) and value of the timber.

MCE starts thinning timber stands in early Winter and continues through early Spring. The Staff and incarcerated individuals involved in the annual thinning project attend trainings on Chainsaw Safety, PPE, First Aid and CPR. This is an assignment that many look forward to as they are away from the facility daily and helps with attendance and morale of the crew.

MCE Staff identify timber stands throughout the year and ensure the crew is trained, able and aware of the task at hand. Depending on the thickness and spacing of the stand, the crew thins between 2 to 4 acres per week. This may not sound like much, but many of the trees are small enough that tree loppers are all that are required. If we are able to maintain the small stands annually, we will go back to the same area in a few years and fine tune the thinning, cutting those trees that did not perform or grow as well as others. The optimum spacing for trees changes as the tree grows and this practice allows us to trim most of the small trees early, let the timber stand mature and go back and select the trees to keep later.

The DNRC Forester will walk timber stands in the Fall with us to help identify the trees that should be kept. The trees to be kept are straight, disease free, and show no visible damage. These trees are marked and measured, to help determine the remainder of the trees to be thinned. Any trees that are dead or dying, split tops, or damaged are removed first. We also look at the species and try to maintain a mixture of the species to mitigate total loss due to insects or disease.

The trees that are thinned are piled to allow for drying. This process takes up to 2 years and the piles are burned during the Winter when there is ample snow cover. Any older trees that are thinned are used in house for posts and poles or any of the many building projects performed at MCE. We use as much of the material as we can on custom furniture, fencing and outlying barns and sheds in the Range Cattle program.

NORTH CAROLINA CORRECTION ENTERPRISES



Commercial Driver Licensing (CDL) Program Overview

Key Facts & Important Details

- Program Start: Early March 2024
- Graduates (as of 1/15/2025): 33 and 6 currently enrolled
- Program Length: 4-to-5 weeks
- Location: Greenville, NC
- Collaborators: NCDAC Correction Enterprises, DMV, Vendor (Trans Tech), NCDAC Green Correctional, and NCDAC Educational Services

Click here to watch video

Program Benefits:

- ✔ CDL Class A License upon completion
- Justice involved gain employment opportunities post-release
- Helps provide for families and contribute to communities



Receive Your CLASS A CDL



Greene Correctional Institution has partnered with North Carolina Correction Enterprises and TransTech Driving School to allow currently incarcerated individuals to receive their Class A CDL license prior to release. Classes are ongoing.

REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum custody offenders only
- Must be within 1 year of release date
- Must have a current Class C driver's license
- Must be infraction free for at least 6 months
- Must be able to pass an initial drug/alcohol screening and random testing
- Must be able to pass Department of Transportation physical exam

*** S/O, SRG, MH, or Pending Charges <u>NOT ELIGIBLE</u> ***

SEE YOUR CASE MANAGER IF INTERESTED. Case managers may contact: SHALONZA ATKINS SHALONZA.ATKINS@DAC.NC.GOV TORREY.LEACH@DAC.NC.GOV



PREPARE FOR AN EXCITING, ADVENTUROUS CAREER!









GEORGIA CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

Tackling the Damage from HURRICANE HELENE

Article Submitted by: Brent Galloway Georgia State Farm and Livestock Advisor Georgia Correctional Industries

September 27, 2024 is a demarcation date. After this date, life and landscape changed for many Georgians. As people of Toombs County, Georgia went to bed on the night of September 27th, they were aware of the storm coming. The forecast announced a hurricane would be coming from the Gulf of Mexico and straight through Georgia. People were prepared for 40-50 mph wind gusts during the night. What happened was much different. Hurricane Helene decided to shift late in the night after many were already in bed. Instead of 40 - 50 mph wind gusts the area ended up being on the right side of the storm and was pounded with rain and sustained winds of over 100 mph for several hours.

I live in Toombs County, Georgia and have the position of State Farm and Livestock Advisor for the Georgia Correctional Industries agri-business operation. I knew during the night that the storm had intensified. I awoke around 1:00 a.m. to rain hitting the bedroom window so hard it was as if a fire truck was soaking the windows with the fire hose. So I knew there would be damage when the sun came up. Upon walking outside at day break on September 28, 2024, I saw destruction. Fortunately, my house survived but trees were uprooted in the yard, board fences were down, and as I looked down the road all I saw was broken fences and trees everywhere.

I immediately left to go check on all the prison farm property. This was slow going because of the downed power lines, trees, and debris everywhere. The second



farm I went to was 20 miles from my home. Usually a 25 minute trip took me 2 ½ hours. I drove about a 60 mile radius that day and all of it was destroyed. If you can imagine a tornado that was 60 miles wide and 300 miles long then you can get an idea of the devastation in South Georgia.

Our area lost power for 19 days. Sub stations had to be rebuilt, power poles replaced, new wire put in place. No power means no fuel stations could pump, if generators were running the fuel pumps, the fuel was rationed for each vehicle and was cash only.

Toombs County was pounded with rain and sustained winds of over 100 mph...

Farm employees thankfully came to work as soon as they could but many were taking care of their families due to house damage and cutting trees off driveways so they could even get out.

Personally, I had over 100 trees down on my farm. Many landed on the barbed wire fences but thankfully the trees that fell blocked the holes. So that is a slow process of clean up and repair that is still ongoing. I also lost an equipment barn that fell on several tractors which caused damage. All livestock was miraculously accounted for and safe from the storm so I am not complaining. We survived.

GEORGIA CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES





Some takeaways from Hurricane Helene outside our normal storm preparations:

1. Always have cash stored so you can get to it. When power went out, ATM machines didn't work, banks were closed, credit/debit machines did not work at stores. We became a cash only society overnight.

2. Have fuel in jugs on hand. It is a bad feeling when fuel stations are closed and your only source of energy is fuel for your house and equipment.

3. Have a generator that can power your appliances with fuel for it.

4. Have food staples stored because most stores didn't have food a few days after the hurricane hit and if they did, it was cash only (refer to #1).

5. Have a chain saw with gas in your truck the night before to cut trees across roads to travel. There were no county or state road employees working due to the fact most of them couldn't get to work.

6. Have some kind of communication. Not cell phones.

7. Have clean water transport tanks for livestock, and we hauled water for 18 days. There was a local farmer who used a nitrogen nurse tank to haul water and lost 40 head of cattle.

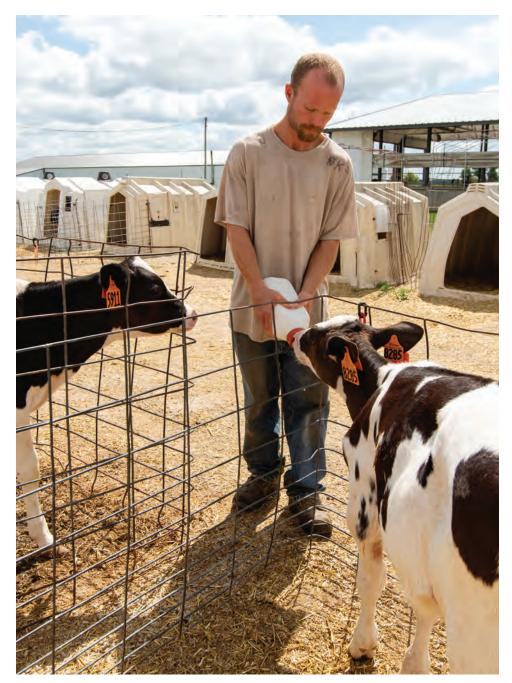
The repairs are slowly coming along and we are working daily to offset our obstacles. Thank you to everyone who checked in on us and offered help.





WISCONSIN DEPT OF CORRECTIONS





Www.isconsin's Department of Corrections has an effective program making strides in agriculture, rehabilitation and reintegration. Its Bureau of Correctional Enterprises (BCE) provides individuals in its care with marketable skills and work experience across agriculture, industries and logistics, and, for workers who choose to use the bureau's service, assist them with the transition back to private-sector employment.

This comprehensive initiative contributes to the state's economy and significantly lowers recidivism rates, paving the way for successful reentry into society.

"Our teams make many products, but each of those is a secondary product to BCE's one primary product: the opportunity for persons in our care to work, learn and earn," says BCE Director Wes Ray.

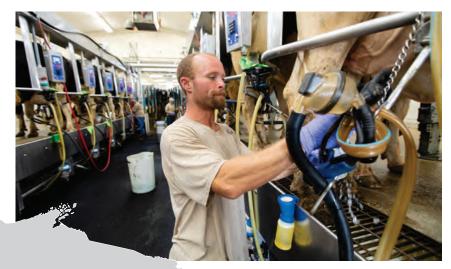
Agriculture and Opportunity

This emphasis on creating opportunities is evident in BCE's agricultural component, which includes two expansive farms and a dairy operation.

The Waupun, Fox Lake and Oregon farms, comprising around 2,200 acres and housing a herd of approximately 1,100 cattle, produce

Nate handles barn maintenance and cattle care at the Bureau of Correctional Enterprises' Waupun Farm.

BUREAU OF CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES



BCE Industries



essential crops such as alfalfa, corn, soybeans and wheat, which are primarily used for herd consumption. The Waupun dairy, known for its high-quality skim milk, ice cream and sherbet, distributes its products to Wisconsin correctional facilities and mental health institutes, providing a crucial part of daily meals.

A cornerstone of BCE's philosophy is integrating real-world agricultural work with rehabilitation. Workers on these farms gain practical knowledge and develop a deep respect for farming, which can lead to future employment in the agribusiness sector.

"BCE work environments, like the farms, as closely as possible within correctional settings, mirror those in the private sector, so learning workers are strong job applicants and able to quickly become valuable employees for Wisconsin businesses, including farms," Ray says.

Excellent Experience

But BCE's true success stories all have human faces. Nate, who had no prior farming experience, handles barn maintenance and cattle care at Waupun Farm.

"I never even touched a cow before," Nate says. "Learning how to milk a cow, understanding how crop rotation works and taking care of calves have all been new experiences for me."

The greatest satisfactions Nate says he gets from the job are staying active and engaged, avoiding the monotony of life in a correctional facility, and maintaining a routine that will make it easier for him to return to his private-sector work as a drill rig mechanic.

Another BCE worker, Leroy, who grew up on a farm, appreciates the program for different reasons. "I've learned how to work with people from different areas of the country," he says, noting the social skills gained alongside ag experience.

They both highlight that the program instills responsibility and a work ethic beneficial for post-release.

Qualify and Quantify

To qualify for employment with the program, workers must not have had any major institutional rule violations for a year and must hold a high school diploma or GED. "Learning how to milk a cow, understanding how crop rotation works and taking care of calves have all been new experiences for me."

66_____

- Nate, BCE worker

Such requirements ensure that only those committed to personal growth and the program's objectives are selected, fostering a disciplined and motivated workforce. Additionally, BCE workers earn money that helps them pay off financial obligations, like restitution and child support, and save for their release, which reduces the likelihood of recidivism.

The impact of BCE is quantifiable. According to the Department of Corrections' Research and Policy Unit, the reincarceration rate for BCE workers three years after their release in 2019 was 15%, less than half the 32% rate for the DOC overall.

Economic Impact

In 2023, BCE generated \$34.6 million in sales from various products. This revenue went back into the program for equipment and materials, and \$684,870 went to the workers to help with their reintegration after release. The program only receives \$50,000 from Wisconsin taxpayers, which goes to refurbish medical equipment for nonprofits. Ray says this financial performance demonstrates how the program benefits its participants and contributes to the economy. Ray and the BCE team continue the bureau's work, transforming lives one work shift at a time.

- Tracey Hackett

VIRGINIA DEPT OF CORRECTIONS

Getting to Know



Rian W. Blythe, Assistant Agribusiness Director at the Central Agribusiness Office in Capron

When did you join the Department?

June 2003. I was looking for a job with good benefits and advancement opportunities.

What's the best part of your day?

Mornings because it is a fresh start to a new day.

Tell about a recent good experience.

Seeing my oldest daughter graduate high school and spread her wings to college, and seeing my youngest daughter get her driver's license. As far as workrelated, seeing fellow staff be recognized for jobs well done!

What is the most interesting or challenging thing about your job?

Agribusiness faces many challenges, so that makes every single day interesting.

What would you advise people thinking about applying for a similar job?

Be open-minded, dedicated, and prepared to handle the next phone call because one call can change everything.

What advice would you give to VADOC new hires?

Be patient, pay attention, be flexible, and show up with a good attitude.

If you were hiring your replacement, what qualities would you look for?

Experience in the field, versatility, a willingness to take action when called on.

"Wes shows up every day with a smile on his face and a can-do attitude!"

-- Kenny Raiford, Agribusiness Operations Director

VIRGINIA DEPT OF CORRECTIONS

VADOC Provides Water During City of Richmond Outage

Article Submitted by: Kenny Raiford, VADOC Agribusiness Director Virginia Department of Corrections

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) responded to the City of Richmond's recent water outage by providing drinking water to residents and supplying water to two hospitals and multiple points of distribution across the city.

"It is part of our mission to look out for our communities, our neighbors, and to help ensure public safety for the Commonwealth. Thank you to all of our corrections team members who supported this response."

Agribusiness teams from State Farm Correctional Center and Bland Correctional Center sent four tractor-trailer loads of drinking water to multiple sites throughout the city. These shipments contained 276,000 eight-ounce pouches and 800 five-gallon bladders of water. The VADOC also provided two water tankers that were used to support multiple hospitals and community centers across Richmond. The tankers supported the Richmond Veterans Administration Medical Center, Bon Secours Southside Medical Center, and later supported the Pine Camp and Hickory Hill community centers.

"The Virginia Department of Corrections will continue to serve Virginians wherever our agency is able to help," said VADOC Director Chad Dotson. "It is part of our mission to look out for our communities, our neighbors, and to help ensure public safety for the Commonwealth.

Thank you to all of our corrections team members who supported this response."

The VADOC also provided assistance to Southwest Virginia following Helene in 2024. More information about the Department's response can be found on the <u>VADOC website</u>.

MEMBER UPDATES

SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS

One main focus of NAIA is the continual advancement of our profession. We value the importance of individuals seeking careers in agribusiness. We look for ways to recognize those individuals by offering opportunities to provide scholarships to applicants that meet the established criteria.

Scholarships are awarded to individuals sponsored by NAIA members who are either a part time or full time student pursuing a bachelor's or graduate degree.

For submissions and questions, contact: Amy Pataluna - Executive Director National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) E: apataluna@nationalcia.org

Submission period is now open!

NAIA will be accepting applications for 2025 Scholarship Nominations. Please submit ALL documents no later than June 6, 2025. Please email ALL documents to Amy Pataluna at <u>apataluna@</u> <u>nationalcia.org</u> Visit <u>https://naiaweb.com/</u> to download the application located in the "Resource" section.

BILLY MAX MOORE AWARD NOMINATIONS

We are now accepting Billy Max Moore Award nominations. The deadline to submit your nomination application is June 6, 2025. Scan the entire BMM application and email to John (Kenny) Raiford @ john.raiford@vadoc.virginia.gov

For questions, call: John (Kenny) Raiford @ (757) 335-0750 **Visit:** <u>https://naiaweb.com/</u> to download the application located in the "Membership" section

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOW OFFERING GROUP MEMBERSHIPS!

Our goal is to allow individuals and organizations to receive as much access as possible.

- Individuals \$20/year
- 10 Members \$195/year
- 15 Members \$290/year
- 20 Members \$385/year
- 25 Members \$480/year
- 30 Members \$575/year

Member benefits include:

- 1. Quarterly newsletters (electronic and printed)
- 2. Member email communications
- 3. Networking opportunities within the organization
- 4. Training opportunities within NAIA and NCIA

WE WOULD LOVE TO FEATURE YOUR ARTICLE IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Have an interesting story to share or a topic you would like to see featured in the newsletter?

We would love to hear from you!

For article submissions, please email Amy Pataluna: apataluna@nationalcia.org







At CattleCon, you'll discover a unique and comprehensive experience that brings together education, networking, business opportunities, advocacy, and fun for the whole family, all under one roof. Join us at CattleCon, the ultimate destination where the beef industry meets to learn, connect, grow, and enjoy. Official Housing and Registration for CattleCon is only available through the <u>CattleCon website</u>. You can stick to our **@cattlecon** social channels for all official updates. Beware of scammers, and please report any suspicious activity.

Future CattleCon dates:

February 3-5, 2026 - Nashville, Tennessee at Music City Center February 2-4, 2027 - Nashville, Tennessee February 1-3, 2028 - New Orleans, Louisiana



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE



NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION



- RECEIVE INDUSTRY SPECIFIC
 TRAINING
- CONNECT WITH EXPERTS IN YOUR FIELD
- GROW YOUR NETWORK



HYATT REGENCY ST. LOUIS AT THE ARCH ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI APRIL 14-17, 2025





Celebrating More Than 152 Years of Global Excellence

Future Conference Sites

2025	Friday to Tuesday January 10-14	Orlando Convention Center and Hyatt	Thursday to Tuesday August 21-26	Denver, CO 155th
2026	Thursday to Tuesday February 5-10	Long Beach, CA	Thursday to Sunday August 20-23	Chicago, IL 156th
2027	Thursday- Sunday January 7-10	Phoenix, AZ	Thursday to Sunday August 19-22	Columbus, OH 157th

Subject to Change



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