



Iowa Rural Summit 2026

Wednesday April 8

- 12:00 Site Visits (on your own)
- Mississippi River Museum
 - Downtown Bellevue
 - Cedar Rock, Frank Lloyd House, Quasqueton
 - Dubuque Art Center
 - Field of Dreams, Dyersville
 - Many other destinations
- 5:00 Welcome Reception
- 7:00 Dinner on your Own

Thursday April 9

- 7:30-9:00 Registration and Breakfast
- 9:00-9:15 Welcome
- 9:15-10:15 Dr. Jeff Stamp, Univ of Minnesota: "Entrepreneurship, Curiosity, Creativity"
- 10:15-10:45 30 Questions in 30 Minutes
- 10:45-11:00 Networking Break/Exhibitor Visits
- 11:00-12:00 Break-Out Sessions #1
- Innovations in Rural Housing
 - Sparking Small Business: The Rural Business Initiative
 - Rural K-12 Education: Engaging Students and Teachers
 - Arts and Culture as a Rural Catalyst

12:00-1:30 Lunch/Rand Fisher Rural Leadership Awards
Lunch Remarks: Gary Dolphin, the Voice of the Hawkeyes

1:30-1:45 Transition to Break-out Rooms

1:45-2:45 Break-Out Sessions #2

- Show Me the Money: Resources for Rural Communities
- Heart & Soul: Engaged Communities with Bright Futures
- Iowa United: Addressing Emergency Service Deserts
- Rural Tourism: Leveraging Assets to Draw Visitors

2:45-3:00 Networking Break/Exhibitor Visits

3:00-4:00 Break-Out Sessions #3

- Rural Philanthropy: Impact Investments by Community Foundations
- Hitting Above their Weight: Towns under 1,000 that Rock
- Standing Up for Ourselves: Advocating for Rural Communities
- Reimagining Rural News Media: Facing the Loss of Newspapers and Radio

4:00-4:30 Hotel Check-in/Exhibitor Visits

4:30-6:00 Rural Reception with Resource Fair

6:00-8:00 Dinner on Your Own/Tram Service to Downtown Dubuque

8:00-10:00 Trivia Night

Friday April 10

7:30-8:30 Registration, Breakfast and Networking

8:30-8:45 Welcome Back

8:45-9:45 Keynote: Gabi Torres, Clinton Artist and Organizer

9:45-10:00 Networking Break/Exhibitor Visits

10:00-10:45 45 Ideas in 45 Minutes

10:45-12:00 Closing: Debi Durham

12:00 Adjourn