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 - Many other destinations
3:00	Field of Dreams Tour, Dyersville *Pre-registration required*
5:00	Welcome Reception
7:00	VIP Sponsor 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: “"The 6 Problems All Entrepreneurs Must Solve."
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 • Standing Up for Ourselves: Advocating for Rural Communities

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 First Aid: 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
- Arts and Culture as a Rural Catalyst
- Reimaging Rural News Media: Losing Small Town 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. “When Artists Come to Town: How Creativity Transforms Rural Communities”

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

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

10:45-11:450 Closing Keynote: Nancy Van Milligen, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque

11:45-12:00 Adjourn