



## CEA Leafy Greens Network Event Schedule

February 27, 2026

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Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> CEA Research Complex (CEARC) | 2515 Carmack Rd., Columbus, OH 43210

All times are in Eastern Time (ET)

**8:30 – 8:50 AM**      **Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Chieri Kubota (OHCEAC Director, The Ohio State University)

Dr. Laura Bautista Jalon (Wageningen University & Research)

**8:50 – 11:00 AM**      **Session 1: Keynote Presentations & Discussion on R&D in Academia**

8:50 – 9:20 AM

Light Environment Optimization for Leafy Greens

Dr. Erik Runkle (Michigan State University)

9:20 – 9:50 AM

Leafy Green Root Health Research Update – Pathogen-Microbial Communities and Pythium Diagnostics

Dr. Soledad Benitez Ponce (The Ohio State University)

Dr. Anna Testen (USDA-ARS)

9:50 – 10:20 AM

Research and Innovation at Wageningen UR

Dr. Laura Bautista Jalon (Wageningen University & Research)

10:20 – 10:50 AM

Panel Discussion: Academic Research Trends and Needs to Move Leafy Greens CEA Forward

Moderator: Dr. Chieri Kubota (The Ohio State University)

Dr. Anna Testen (USDA-ARS)

Dr. Erik Runkle (Michigan State University)

Dr. Laura Bautista Jalon (Wageningen University & Research)

Dr. Soledad Benitez Ponce (The Ohio State University)

10:50 – 11:00 AM

Break (10 Minutes)

**11:00 – 12:20 PM**      **Session 2: Keynote Presentations & Discussion on Technologies in Industries**

11:00 – 11:20 AM

How to Manage Heat Stress (Pre-Mature Bolting) by Introducing Value-Added Transplants

Dr. Ricardo Hernández (Rooted-in-Tech)



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11:20 – 11:40 AM	Taking Control of the Microbiome in Hydroponics Dr. Paul Rutten (Concert Bio)
11:40 – 12:00 PM	Automation for Small to Midscale Leafy Green Operations Paul Brentlinger (CropKing Inc.) Taylor Smith (Lubing USA)
12:00 – 12:20 PM	Stress: What is the Root of the Problem Sarah Despres (Rijk Zwaan)
<b>12:20 – 2:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch and Sponsor Presentations</b>
12:20 – 1:20 PM	Networking Lunch
1:20 – 2:00 PM	Sponsor Presentations & Poster Presentations
<b>2:00 – 4:15 PM</b>	<b>Panel Discussions</b>
2:00 – 2:45 PM	Panel Discussion 1: Data-Driven Management and AI Applications for Leafy Green Production (and Climate Control) Moderator: Dr. Laura Bautista Jalon (Wageningen University & Research) Adam Greenburg (IUNU) Brian Stancil (Leaficient) Dominick DiMucci (Haven Greens) Frans-Peter Dechering (Corvus Drones) Mihnea Paraschiv (Sigrow) Robin Klamer (Certhon)
2:45 – 3:30 PM	Panel Discussion 2: Leafy Greens Root Health Management Moderator: Dr. Laura Bautista Jalon (Wageningen University & Research) Dr. Anna Testen (USDA-ARS) Austin Smith (Grodan) Dr. Bart Geraats (BASF   Nunhems) Charlie Guy (LettUs Grow) Dr. Kyle Freedman (Jiffy Group) Dr. Paul Rutten (Concert Bio) Dr. Soledad Benitez Ponce (The Ohio State University) Dr. Vijay Rapaka (Oasis Grower Solutions)



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3:30 – 4:15 PM	<p>Panel Discussion 3: Light &amp; Climate Management - Glazing, Lighting, Shading for Leafy Greens</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Laura Bautista Jalon (Wageningen University &amp; Research)</p> <p>Amos Bassi (Signify)</p> <p>Dominick DiMucci (Haven Greens)</p> <p>Dr. Erik Runkle (Michigan State University)</p> <p>Paul Arena (Svensson)</p> <p>Sarah Despres (Rijk Zwaan)</p> <p>Vic Mirabella (Priva)</p>
	<p><b>Conference Closing</b></p> <p>Dr. Chieri Kubota (OHCEAC Director, The Ohio State University)</p> <p>Dr. Laura Bautista Jalon (Wageningen University &amp; Research)</p>
4:15 – 6:00 PM	<p><b>Facility Tour and Networking Social</b></p>
4:15 – 4:45 PM	<p>CEARC Free Walking Tour (In-Person Participants)</p>
4:45 – 6:00 PM	<p><b>Networking Social (In-Person Participants)</b></p> <p>Sponsored by BASF   Nunhems, Berger, Enza Zaden, Hortiplan, LettUs Grow, Light4Food, Oasis Grower Solutions, Rijk Zwaan &amp; Signify</p>