

At a Glance

- **Community Convening:** StartupBREW held 4 events with 339 total attendees.
- **Event Lineup Launched:** All Emerging Prairie and Grand Farm 2026 event tickets are now live and available.
- **Annual Report Released:** The 2025 Emerging Prairie Annual Report was released in February.
- **National Honor:** Grand Farm Technical Advisor Noel Anderson elected to the National Academy of Engineering.
- **Startup Ecosystem:** North Dakota ecosystem calls kicked off, covering Inputs & Soil Amendments and Robotics, Equipment, Machinery, and Sensors.
- **UGA Grand Farm:** Partnership season underway with AgGeorgia Farm Credit and Center of Innovation renewals; infrastructure upgrades advancing on the Georgia campus.

Experiences & Convenings

StartupBREW

February featured four StartupBREW events, continuing the season's strong momentum as a weekly gathering point for founders, innovators, and community builders.

Speakers:

- Walkwise
- Spread Your Sunshine
- Memory Cafe of the Red River Valley
- Bio Girls
- BlameBates
- PowerHouse
- Legato
- MCM Graphics



Attendance: 339 community members

2026 Event Tickets Launched

All Emerging Prairie and Grand Farm event tickets for the full 2026 season were launched in February, with calendar invitations distributed to the community. The full event lineup is now available to the public.

Recognition & Leadership

Grand Farm Technical Advisor Elected to National Academy of Engineering

Grand Farm Technical Advisor Noel Anderson has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering — one of the highest professional honors for engineers in the United States. He was recognized for his contributions in autonomous systems and digital agriculture.

Anderson supports Grand Farm partners by providing technical guidance and helping connect industry, research, and real-world farm applications. His election further elevates Grand Farm's standing among national agricultural innovation leaders.



2026 Startup Program Planning

North Dakota Ecosystem Calls

North Dakota Ecosystem calls kicked off. Session topics in February included:

- February 12 — ND Ecosystem Introduction
- February 19 — Inputs & Soil Amendments
- February 24 — Robotics, Equipment, Machinery, and Sensors

Each session featured startup presentations followed by breakout rooms, enabling direct dialogue between innovators and ecosystem partners.

Grand Farm Partnerships

New Partnership

- Peterson Farm Seeds

Renewed Partnerships

- Doosan Bobcat
 - Pivot Bio
 - Butler Company
 - Hefty Seed Company
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UGA Grand Farm

Partnership Renewals

February marked the official start of partnership season at UGA Grand Farm. Two key partners have renewed their commitments for 2026:

- [AgGeorgia Farm Credit](#) — renewed partner
- [Center of Innovation](#) — renewed partner

These renewals reflect a continued shared commitment to strengthening Georgia agriculture through applied research and on-farm validation.



2026 Plot Trial Partners

The UGA Grand Farm team is actively locking in 2026 plot trial partners, working alongside innovative companies to conduct research, validation, and demonstration projects under real Georgia field conditions — giving growers clear, practical insights.

Infrastructure Upgrades

Meaningful progress has been made on campus infrastructure heading into the 2026 season:

- An additional well is being installed to support expanded irrigation capacity.
- Irrigation systems are currently being put in place across the farm.



- Orchard infrastructure is being prepared to support future trials in pecans, peaches, and blueberries — broadening capability to serve both row crop and specialty crop growers across the state.
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Marketing, Communications & Storytelling

2025 Emerging Prairie Annual Report

The 2025 Emerging Prairie Annual Report was finalized and released in February, highlighting the organization's community impact and momentum heading into 2026.

- Read the report: [2025 Emerging Prairie Annual Report](#)

Public Relations & Media Coverage

February media coverage highlighted Grand Farm and Emerging Prairie's expanding profile across agriculture, innovation, workforce, and community leadership.

- **KFYR / Dakota Mornings**
[StartupBREW Interview with Michael Bell](#)
 - **KFYR / Dakota Mornings**
[Noel Anderson Grand Farm Interview with Michael Bell](#)
 - **KFGO**
[Emerging Prairie and Grand Farm launch tickets for their full 2026 event lineup](#)
 - **TellWell Podcast**
[Start Small, Move Fast: Andrew Jason on Building Nonprofit Community Through Story](#)
 - **InForum**
[TEDxFargo announces theme for 2026](#)
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In Summary

February 2026 built on January's planning momentum with visible community activation, national recognition, and partner engagement across both North Dakota and Georgia. StartupBREW continued to demonstrate its strength as a regional convening platform, the 2026 event calendar opened to the public, and Noel Anderson's election to the National Academy of Engineering elevated Grand Farm's national profile. With infrastructure investment in Georgia, renewed partnerships, and ecosystem programming underway, February set a strong foundation for an active field season ahead.