

MARCH 2026

# IMPACT INSIGHTS

## At a Glance

- **Community Convening:** StartupBREW held 4 events with 339 attendees, featuring speakers from a diverse range of founders and innovators.
  - **TEDxFargo:** TEDxFargo CHARGE announced, returning July 29–30, 2026.
  - **Grand Farm Partnerships:** Grand Farm welcomed aerial PLOT and Geronimo Power as new partners, with Black Gold Farms and KWS renewing.
  - **Ecosystem Engagement:** Grand Farm hosted 25 John Deere Intelligent Solutions Group engineers, resulting in a collaborative sensor development project.
  - **Policy & Visibility:** Hosted U.S. Representative Julie Fedorchak at Grand Farm with AGCO, Green Eye Robotics, Greenfield Robotics, and other partners.
  - **UGA Grand Farm:** A second well was installed at UGA Grand Farm and construction began on a second pivot irrigation system, expanding trial capacity.
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## Experiences & Convenings

### StartupBREW

March featured four StartupBREW events, maintaining strong weekly momentum as a gathering point for founders, innovators, and community builders across the region.

#### Speakers:

- Endure Thermal Spa
- Rodemerica
- SpeechSage
- The BRDGE



**Attendance:** 136 community members

### [TEDxFargo CHARGE Announced](#)

TEDxFargo CHARGE returns July 29–30, 2026. The 2026 theme centers on unleashing momentum — the spark that ignites ideas, the current that carries them forward, and the power that comes when we move with intention.

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CHARGE invites speakers and attendees to claim their agency, lead with clarity and conviction, and electrify the world around them. This year's event explores what happens when individuals and organizations start generating their own energy and move with purpose.

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## Grand Farm Partnerships

### New Partnership

- aerial PLOT
- Geronimo Power

### Renewed Partnerships

- Black Gold Farms
  - KWS
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## Ecosystem Engagement

### John Deere Intelligent Solutions Group Visit

Grand Farm hosted 25 engineers from John Deere's Intelligent Solutions Group to share opportunities for collaboration and technical partnership. The visit resulted in a joint project (under NDA) to help test and develop a sensor solution ahead of the 2026 field season.



### Green Eye Robotics Industry Demonstration

Grand Farm hosted an open industry demonstration for the local agriculture community showcasing Green Eye Robotics' targeted spraying technology, connecting local producers with cutting-edge precision ag innovation.

### U.S. Representative Julie Fedorchak Visit

Grand Farm hosted U.S. Representative Julie Fedorchak for an on-site visit to discuss artificial intelligence and autonomy in agriculture. Partners in attendance included AGCO, Green Eye Robotics, Greenfield Robotics, and others — reinforcing Grand Farm's role as a convener of industry, policy, and innovation.



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## Field Operations & Program Readiness

March focused on finalizing project charters and lining up resources across partner field trials in preparation for the 2026 growing season, positioning all active trials for seamless execution as spring arrives.

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## Program Management Office (PMO)

- Worked weekly with senior USDA ARS leaders on Program Definition for the Transformational Agriculture Innovation Platform.
  - Captured UAS and on-farm data system needs for the 2026 season.
  - Progressed the USDA ARS IoT sensor catalog and planned summer sensor deployments.
  - Continued close-out activities and proposal work on the autonomous mowing project.
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## Research

**Regional Ag Pain Point Report (RAPPR)** Advanced the RAPPR report through drafting, review cycles, and methodology refinement, strengthening the analytical foundation that connects producer-identified challenges to future innovation activity.

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## UGA Grand Farm Update

### Trial & Planting Season Preparation

The UGA Grand Farm team has been finalizing upcoming trials and preparing for the planting season. Activity on the site continues to pick up as infrastructure development moves forward.

### Infrastructure Upgrades

- A second well was installed to expand water access across the farm.
- Construction began on a second pivot irrigation system, with a second linear system expected soon.



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- These additions support expanding trials and ensure capacity to test a wider range of technologies across multiple crops.

## Tours & Community Engagement

UGA Grand Farm hosted a visit from the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts — an opportunity to share the farm's vision, highlight work underway, and connect with conservation leaders from across the state interested in how precision agriculture and emerging technologies can support sustainable farming practices.



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## Marketing, Communications & Storytelling

### Photography

- John Deere Engineers Visit Grand Farm 2026 - [Album](#)
- Greeneye Technology Targeted Spraying Open House 2026 - [Album](#)
- U.S. Representative Julie Fedorchak Visits Grand Farm Innovation Campus 2026 - [Album](#)
- StartupBREW Fargo x4 - [Album](#)

### Video

- [Grand Farm North Dakota Ecosystem Introduction](#)

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## Public Relations & Media Coverage

- **Site Selection**  
[GOVERNOR'S CUP PART II: WELCOME TO THE CLUB](#)
- **Congresswoman Fedorchak**  
[Fedorchak spotlights ND innovation at Grand Farm Innovation Campus](#)
- **American Ag Network**  
[AgTech Software Company Relocates Company Headquarters to Fargo](#)



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## External Speaking Engagements

- Dr. William Aderholdt presented at UIUC's AI in Agriculture Conference (May 9) on engaging farmers in the innovation process as AI technology develops in agriculture.
  - Andrew, Amanda, and William presented three times to Pioneer Seed growers on the future of agricultural technology and Grand Farm's work.
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## In Summary

March 2026 marked a month of high-impact engagement and strategic momentum for Grand Farm and Emerging Prairie. From welcoming John Deere engineers to a sitting U.S. Representative, Grand Farm reinforced its standing as a national hub for agricultural innovation. New partnerships with aerial PLOT and Geronimo Power expanded the ecosystem, TEDxFargo CHARGE set the stage for a powerful summer event, and UGA Grand Farm advanced its infrastructure to support a growing slate of 2026 field trials. Across research, policy, community, and field operations, March demonstrated the breadth and depth of the organization's impact.