

At a Glance

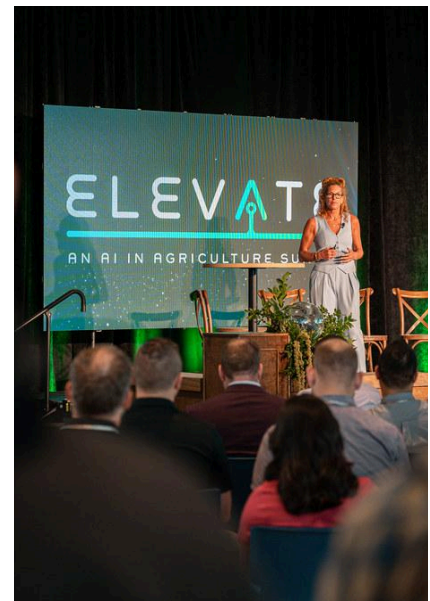
- **Campus Utilization:** 7 organizations hosted on the Grand Farm Innovation Campus, engaging **307 attendees** in December.
 - **Research Closeout:** 2025 field season formally closed with final partner reporting and federal coordination.
 - **Data-Driven Strategy:** RAPPER development advanced with priority agricultural pain points identified to guide future innovation.
 - **Regional & National Reach:** Continued Upper Midwest and Southeast engagement, including UGA steering and conference leadership.
 - **Visibility:** Featured in ND Department of Agriculture *Ag Mag* and multiple national agriculture, policy, and innovation outlets.
 - **Year-End Perspective:** December served as the closeout and synthesis month for a year of sustained execution and growth.
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2025 Year-in-Review: Cumulative Impact & Momentum

December served as the closeout month for one of the most active years in the organization's history. Throughout 2025, Grand Farm and Emerging Prairie demonstrated consistent progress.

2025 by the Numbers

- **StartupBREW:**
 - 45 meetups
 - 72 speakers and 17 performers
 - 3,816 attendees
 - 3,775 cups of coffee served
 - Average attendance of 100 per event
- **Ecosystem Engagement:**
 - Flagship convenings including AgTech Week and Cultivate, Elevate: An AI in Agriculture Summit, Autonomous Nation, Prairie Capital Summit, TEDxFargo, and ND and UGA Grand Farm Field Days
 - High profile events such as the Secretary of Agriculture visit, Future of Farming event with John Deere and RDO Equipment Company, and the first Brookings-AEI Commission on US Rural Prosperity Field Hearing
 - Thousands of participants engaged across conferences, field days, international delegation visits, and community events



IMPACT INSIGHTS

- **Applied Research & Validation:**
 - 30 field trials conducted across North Dakota and Georgia
 - Partnerships and engagement spanning USDA-ARS, NDSU, UGA, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and additional land-grant institutions
 - Multi-year datasets generated across autonomy, sensing, biologicals, and AI-enabled agronomy
- **Visibility:**
 - National and state media coverage grounded in real outcomes
 - Peer-reviewed research, federal alignment, and state investment reinforcing trust with funders and policymakers



Key Themes from 2025

- **From Regional Asset to National Platform** – Grand Farm continued its evolution into nationally relevant innovation infrastructure.
- **Ecosystem as Infrastructure** – Consistent convening proved essential to connecting founders, research, capital, and policy.
- **Translation at Scale** – RAPP, startup plots, and applied research created repeatable pathways from pain point to deployment.
- **Workforce Embedded Throughout** – Talent development integrated across entrepreneurship, research, and community engagement.
- **Visibility with Substance** – Recognition driven by outcomes, not aspiration.

December functioned as the bridge between execution and scale - consolidating lessons learned and positioning the organization for coordinated growth in 2026.

Driving Engagement Across Sectors (December Focus)

December emphasized relationship-building, stewardship, and alignment, ensuring continuity even as seasonal programming paused.

Experiences & Convenings

- **gener8tor Showcase:** Emerging Prairie supported execution and attended the event, strengthening founder visibility and investor connectivity across the regional startup ecosystem.
- **AgTech Week Engagement:** Coordinated discussions around AgTech Week and broader ecosystem alignment.

Grand Farm Innovation Campus Utilization

Between December 3–23, the Innovation Campus hosted 7 external organizations and 307 attendees, reinforcing its role as a trusted, neutral convening environment.

Organizations hosted included:

PTI, Canadian Consulate, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Cornerstone Bank, West Central Initiative, Northern State University, and Hefty Seed.

Advancing Applied Research & Field Operations

2025 Field Season Closeout

- Delivered final reports to UGA–Grand Farm field trial partners, formally closing the 2025 research cycle.
- Coordinated internal transitions from field execution to winter analysis.

Program Management Office (PMO) & Innovation-as-a-Service

- Finalized annual reports for ND Department of Transportation and USDA-ARS Lincoln.
 - Developed internal testing plans supporting USDA-ARS Lincoln activities and the upcoming IoT Showcase.
 - Advanced 2026 planning through scope refinement and partner alignment.
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Data, Strategy & RAPPR Progress

Regional Ag Pain Point Report (RAPPR)

December marked a synthesis phase for RAPPR development:



IMPACT INSIGHTS



- Conducted development and validation meetings to align structure and intended use.
- Identified and categorized 29 mid-level, technology-addressable agricultural pain points into thematic groupings.

This work ensures innovation activity remains grounded in clearly articulated, producer-informed needs.

Regional & University Ecosystem Engagement

Higher Education & Research Partners

Sustained collaboration aligned applied research, experiential learning, and student engagement with field operations and programming.

Upper Midwest

Continued coordination supported multi-state collaboration, validation, and innovation exchange.

Southeast (UGA Grand Farm)

- Hosted a quarterly UGA Steering Committee meeting.
 - Engaged partners for Innovation Row at the Southeast Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference.
 - Participated on the conference planning committee, reinforcing leadership in the region.
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Marketing, Communications & Visibility

December reinforced credibility through earned media and partner-driven storytelling that translated technical work into accessible narratives.

Earned Media & Features

- [North Dakota Department of Agriculture – Ag Magazine](#)
Featured in the *Technology* issue, spotlighting partner Aigen and applied AI-enabled AgTech at Grand Farm.
- [American Ag Network](#)
AgTech Enabling Farms to Do More with Less highlighted Grand Farm's role in advancing practical, efficiency-driven innovation.
- [Farm Talk](#)
Interview with Noel Anderson focused on robotic weeding and its role in improving productivity and sustainability.



IMPACT INSIGHTS

- [DigiKey – Future Fields Video Series](#)

Future Fields: Innovation at Grand Farm showcased the Innovation Campus as a living laboratory.

- [Brookings-AEI Commission on Rural Prosperity](#)

America's Rural Future podcast featuring Tom Halverson, CEO of CoBank, reinforcing the national policy context for rural innovation.

- [North Dakota INC!](#)

One Google Search, Eight Trips, and a Big Bet on North Dakota highlighted Emerging Prairie's founder attraction impact.

- [PeopleForBikes](#)

The Secret Behind Happy Communities featured TEDxFargo speaker, Jenn Dice.

- [We Are Georgia](#)

UGA Grand Farm – A Grand Partnership highlighted cross-state collaboration and national reach.

In Summary

December reflected disciplined closeout, strong partner stewardship, active campus utilization, and strategic preparation. When paired with the cumulative outcomes of 2025, December clearly functions as the bridge between execution and scale, positioning Grand Farm and Emerging Prairie for an ambitious and coordinated 2026.