

Issue 26-01

ACDC NEWS

January 2026

Adding updates about the police raid on a rural community newspaper

We are adding to the ACDC collection recent updates about results of a police raid during 2023 on the *Marion County Record* in rural Kansas. The raid sparked local, national, and international interest related to the issue of press freedom.

- “Kansas newspaper that was raided by police is vindicated after county agrees to pay \$3M US.” News release available by open access at: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/marion-county-record-settlement-9.6976670/>
- “Study finds *Marion County Record* raid created ‘shared press distress’ among fellow journalists.” News release available by open access at: <https://news.ku.edu/news/article/study-finds-marion-county-record-raid-created-shared-press-distress-among-fellow-journalists/>
- Nick Mathews and Stephen Wolgast (2026) “Shared press distress and the police raid on a newspaper,” *Journal of Communication Inquiry*. 50(1):97-113. You may not find full text of this article available by open access. However, if you are interested in reading it please invite our help at acdc@library.illinois.edu

New name for IFAJ

The International Federation of Agricultural Journalists is changing identity to the International Forum of Agricultural Journalists.

This change is prompted by efforts of IFAJ to register with the British government as a limited corporation. IFAJ newsletter explains: “Under British law, IFAJ’s voting system does not allow us to call ourselves a ‘federation,’ a term reserved for organizations that operate under a one-member, one-vote system.

Source: Agricultural Communications Documentation Center, University Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, 61801 • **Phone:** 217-300-0029 • **Email:** [@library.illinois.edu • **Website:** <https://www.library.illinois.edu/funkaces/acdc/> • **Bluesky:** \[@illinoisacdc.bsky.social\]\(mailto:@illinoisacdc.bsky.social\)](mailto:@library.illinois.edu)

“After a member survey in September and an in-depth discussion of the IFAJ Executive at the 2025 Congress in Kenya, the Delegate Assembly accepted the Executive’s recommendation to rename IFAJ the International Forum of Agricultural Journalists.”

The new name will take effect when registration papers are approved by Britain’s Companies House.

Revised white paper addresses data ethics and stewardship in agriculture

“The rapid advancement of data-driven technologies in agriculture offers immense potential to enhance productivity, sustainability, and economic resilience. However, this increasing reliance on data brings ethical, legal, and stewardship challenges that must be addressed to ensure responsible use and equitable benefits for all stakeholders.”

Ag Gateway, a global non-profit organization, sketched that scenario to announce revision of a long-standing “White paper on data ethics and stewardship” in August 2025. The 42-page revised paper involves key principles that emphasize the importance of privacy, ownership, transparency, fairness, and responsible governance in agricultural data management.

You can read “[AgGateway releases revised data ethics and stewardship white paper](#)” by open access.

“Food writing needs to balance service journalism with hard news”

We are adding to the ACDC collection this 2021 commentary in *Nieman Reports*. Author Brett Anderson suggested that “food journalism isn’t just for readers privileged enough to obsess over where to spend their money dining out.”

You can read “[Food writing needs to balance service journalism with hard news](#)” by open access.

Communicator events approaching

Here are several nearing events you may find helpful, including contact information you can use for details. We welcome suggestions or revisions for this calendar.

April 13-16, 2026

“Charting new territory in agricultural and extension education.” Conference of the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) in San Jose, Costa Rica. Information: <https://aiae.org/2026aiaeconference/>

April 15-17, 2026

“Hungry for more.” 2026 Agri-Marketing Conference of the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) in St. Louis, Missouri.

Information: <https://nama.org/hungry-for-more.html>

April 15-18, 2026

“SEJ 2026.” Conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) in Chicago, Illinois.

Information: [SEJ2026 Annual Conference — Presented by the Society of Environmental Journalists](https://sej.org/2026-annual-conference/)

April 28-30, 2026

“TOCA rocks!” Annual meeting of the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) in Cleveland, Ohio.

Information: <https://toca.org/toca-annual-meeting/>

May 14-16, 2026

2026 annual equine media conference of American Horse Publications (AHP) in Lexington, Kentucky.

Information: <https://americanhorsepubs.org/ahp-annual-conference/>

Best wishes for the New Year

We close this first 2026 issue of *ACDC News* with a Dutch proverb about communicating and thinking ahead:

“Go softly and look afar”

ACDC is a deep and open resource for you, so please feel free to invite our help as you search for information, local to global. You are welcomed to follow us on Bluesky [@illinoisacdc](https://twitter.com/illinoisacdc). And please suggest (or send) agricultural communications documents we might add to this unique and valued international collection. We welcome them in hard copy (sent to Agricultural Communications Documentation Center, 510 ACES Library, 1101 S. Goodwin Avenue, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801) – or in electronic format sent to acdc@library.illinois.edu