



**Science
Societies**

Schnable receives NAS Prize in Food and Agriculture Sciences

February 20, 2026



Member News

CSSA member James Schnable, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has been awarded the National Academy of Sciences Prize in Food and Agriculture Sciences.

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has awarded University of Nebraska plant geneticist [James Schnable](#) (CSSA member) one of its highest honors: the NAS Prize in Food and Agriculture Sciences.

“Schnable’s pioneering innovations in plant genomics, quantitative genetics, and phenotyping are reshaping how we understand, improve, and sustain the world’s major crops,” the organization said. He is the youngest person to receive the award, which comes with a medal and a \$100,000 prize.

The award recognizes research by a mid-career U.S. scientist who “has made an extraordinary contribution to agriculture or to the understanding of the biology of a species fundamentally important to agriculture or food production.” Past recipients of the award are internationally recognized leaders in fields including genomic studies of plants and animals, food security, animal welfare, and pollinator health.

Schnable, the Nebraska Corn Checkoff Presidential Chair and Professor of Agronomy and Horticulture, has pioneered and collaborated on a series of landmark research projects, including the [complete mapping of the corn genome](#); a [dramatically expedited process for identifying corn gene functions](#); and a [current project to develop the first digital twin of a cornfield](#).

Those projects, involving advanced interdisciplinary collaboration, fill in key gaps in scientific understanding and provide opportunities to develop more robust and adaptable hybrids through breeding or gene editing.

—Source: [Nebraska Today](#), University of Nebraska–Lincoln

[More people news](#)

[Back to issue](#)

[Back to home](#)

Text © . The authors. CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Except where otherwise noted, images are subject to copyright. Any reuse without express permission from the copyright owner is prohibited.