

# MM2017 Survey Results

This page contains detailed results of the survey.

So far, **there are 218 responses to the survey.**

Please rank each item on a 5-point Likert scale from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree.

The below scores were interpreted based on the following scale:

Strongly Agree = 5

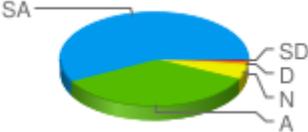
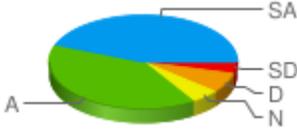
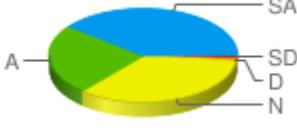
Agree = 4

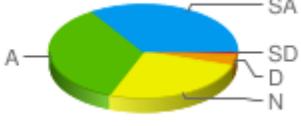
Neutral / No Opinion = 3

Disagree = 2

Strongly Disagree = 1

Higher average scores correspond with more agreement with the statement. The data is sorted by highest average score.

Question	Average Score	Pie Chart	Breakdown
<i>The Union Station hotel was an appropriate venue for the conference.</i>	<b>4.46</b>		<p><b>57% (125 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Agree'.</p> <p><b>35% (77 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Agree'.</p> <p><b>5% (10 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Neutral / No Opinion'.</p> <p><b>1% (3 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Disagree'.</p> <p><b>1% (3 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Disagree'.</p>
<i>The meals served at the meeting offered sufficient choice and were of good quality.</i>	<b>4.13</b>		<p><b>44% (95 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Agree'.</p> <p><b>40% (88 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Agree'.</p> <p><b>5% (11 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Neutral / No Opinion'.</p> <p><b>7% (16 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Disagree'.</p> <p><b>4% (8 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Disagree'.</p>
<i>Public transportation from the airport to the hotel was convenient and easy to use.</i>	<b>3.98</b>		<p><b>39% (85 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Agree'.</p> <p><b>24% (53 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Agree'.</p> <p><b>34% (74 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Neutral / No Opinion'.</p> <p><b>1% (3 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Disagree'.</p>

			<b>1% (3 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Disagree'.
<i>St. Louis is a convenient airport to fly into for the Midwestern Maize Genetics Conference held every second year.</i>	<b>3.96</b>		<b>34% (74 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Agree'. <b>35% (76 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Agree'. <b>26% (57 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Neutral / No Opinion'. <b>4% (8 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Disagree'. <b>1% (3 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Disagree'.
<i>The cost of the hotel rooms was acceptable.</i>	<b>3.86</b>		<b>21% (46 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Agree'. <b>50% (109 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Agree'. <b>23% (51 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Neutral / No Opinion'. <b>5% (10 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Disagree'. <b>1% (2 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Disagree'.
<i>The cost of the meeting registration (includes Audio-Visual, all meals, coffee breaks, poster board rental, etc.) was acceptable.</i>	<b>3.65</b>		<b>19% (41 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Agree'. <b>42% (91 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Agree'. <b>26% (56 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Neutral / No Opinion'. <b>13% (28 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Disagree'. <b>1% (2 / 218)</b> responded with a 'Strongly Disagree'.

**Do you favour returning to this hotel for the 2019 Maize Genetics Conference?**

Answers are sorted by highest frequency:

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
<i>Yes</i>	<b>192</b>
<i>No</i>	<b>24</b>

**If you would like to suggest a more preferable midwestern location for the 2019 Maize Genetics Conference, please list it here.**

1. Minneapolis, Minnesota
2. Ames, Iowa
3. Chicago, Illinois

4. Des Moines, Iowa
5. Des Moines, Iowa
6. Cleveland, Ohio
7. TBD. Ann Arbor, Michigan
8. indianapolis, Indiana
9. Missouri
10. Houston,
11. Monona Terrace Conference Center. Madison, Wisconsin
12. Pheasant run resort or others. St Charles near Chicago, Illinois
13. St. Charles Convention Center. St. Charles,, Missouri
14. UIUC. Champaign, Illinois
15. Ames, Iowa
16. Preferably in the South. any thing cheaper,
17. Iowa Events Center/. Des Moines, Iowa
18. Pheasant Run Resort. St Charles, Illinois
19. Omaha, Nebraska
20. madison, Wisconsin
21. Madison, Wisconsin
22. Columbus, Ohio
23. N/A,
24. Minneapolis, Minnesota
25. Memorial Union or Union South. Madison, Wisconsin
26. Union South. Madison, Wisconsin
27. Holiday Inn. Manhattan, Kansas

**Please provide any comments/feedback about the conference:**

1. Some aspects of the service were a little slow at the hotel. It would be a good place to return to if they could improve on this a little bit.
2. Need more space for the pre-meeting workshops.
3. The steering committee is generally not representative of the maize community at large, which results in a biased selection of speakers (both plenary as well as chosen from abstracts) that only caters to some attendees. I understand that the current focus of the maize meeting may be of interest to a large portion of the community but if it is to be a meeting of the entire maize community, not just a section of it, the steering committee should strive to have all aspects of maize research included. Otherwise, we'll see fragmentation of the community (vide the informal, invitation-only meeting on maize developmental genetics on Wednesday morning) and more and more maize scientists who simply don't come to the maize meeting.
4. This city and venue are an appropriate Midwest location for the MGC. As this was the first time at the Union Station, I expect there will be a few "growing pains". None of the problems would remove this venue as suitable for the 2019 location.
5. It was very well run, as usual. Talks were good and the selections seemed fair. Poster space was good. AV was good (as usual). Location was nice.
6. Great venue and exciting program. I am happy to return in 2019.

7. 1) It would be nice to provide discounted parking for local attendees, or advertise other parking options.  
2) If the same venue is used in the future, posters should either be moved up to the side (raised) dining area OR be shifted to the opposite end of the "train station" so as not to block food and beverage lines from forming/queuing.  
3) More food and beverage serving lines, especially during evening social time. Or just have cups of beer poured in advance of sessions ending.
8. The conference was excellent; it was well-organized and went like clockwork.
9. poster location had natural light and was vastly preferable to Pheasant Run  
St Louis is a more central location and avoids O'Hare  
Don't do it the weekend the clocks go forward
10. The hotel was fine, although more vegetarian options would have been nice. Especially breakfast: how about whole-grain bagels, bread and cereals, more fruit and yogurt?
11. In general a very nice meeting (location).
12. I would appreciate a lightning talk round from 10 selected poster abstracts. Each person could present 5 slides.
13. Conference was OK, but the quality of the hotel including meals and hygiene I found it very poor.  
Talks, poster and meeting was very good.
14. I loved the venue - big open space, conveniently located by metro.
15. Time is too long (from 7am to 2am), not enough time to rest.
16. It would be nice if the chefs could have a few lower fat options . . . some of the food was a little heartburn-inducing for older tummies.
17. The registration discount for grad students was good and made it feasible to bring students. I thought the venue was great.
18. The Conference and the venue were great. However given that the fundings are declining a more modest venue would do just fine, I believe.
19. The food wasn't great (cold or lacking sufficient options), but improved during the conference. Poster area and common space was great. The conference room was acceptable. The emailed receipts from the hotel is a plus. Transportation from the airport was easy and cheap.
20. I'd like to thank Dr.Grotewold and Organizing Committee for the great opportunity which made it happen for me to attend and present a poster. I cannot think of a better conference to attend as a plantbiologist.  
Hope to attend many more maize meetings. Best wishes, G.Hacisalihoglu
21. Highly enjoyable
22. The venue seemed a great size for the Maize Community and I liked the poster area set-up. There were some issues with my room. The hotel checked me out of my room on two of the three nights, and I was required to remove my belongings and relocate to another room on Saturday. This wasn't great, but overall the location fits our group and is a good midwest site. It is also an easy drive for Iowa Staters.
23. Seems the meeting was significantly more expensive this year- the quality of accomodations and food was better, but I would prefer a less expensive venue.

24. As a graduate student, I wish that MGC was able to completely cover the registration, especially since the next Conference will be international and that will be a much more expensive trip as far as travel goes.
25. The large hall enabling poster sessions and breakfast/lunch/dinner in the same "room" strongly enhanced lively discussions at posters.
26. Thanks to the organizers - the conference was very well organized and I like it very much that there is a lot of time for posters and discussions.  
The hotel is very nice and the location is easy to reach from the airport with public transportation. That is much better than it was with Pheasant Run.
27. The conference was perfect!!
28. I had many problems with my hotel reservation. In particular, the details regarding who was staying in my room and how the student financial aid was applied was challenging for the hotel to get correct. Perhaps going forward these details will be dealt with more easily.
29. Great conference, maize meeting gets better every year.
30. The venue was fantastic! So nice to have the posters right in the middle and right by the bars. This promoted a lot of interactions at the posters, which I think was lacking last year.
31. Overall a great conference! Looking forward to attending future conferences.  
However, the hospitality room could have been a little bigger . Also would have been better if hospitality session started a little earlier so that people would not have to stay up later to engage in interesting conversations!
32. The Union Station was a much more convenient and pleasant location than Pheasant Run. I hope that this will be the new Midwestern meeting location.
33. Having it in the same week as Corn Breeder School is beneficial. At least CBS received international participation, which would otherwise not have been there
34. Very good conference overall - almost all talks were excellent as well as the posters.
35. This is a good venue. It will probably be an even better venue after they have finished their renovations.
36. Good conference, very informative and interesting. The food was quite good and the hotel staff competent and helpful.
37. I think the venue was wonderful. I also felt happy to have international guests coming to such a nice location. Pheasant run is a bit embarrassing.
38. I liked the venue. Originally I was not sure how the Mid-Way area would work for posters and meals, but it turned out to work well. The meeting area seemed tapped out as far as capacity, the larger ball room would work better. I liked the larger screens and the projectors worked well when presenters had highly detailed slides.
39. Great job steering committee!
40. As far as locations go, one of the best for the conference.

41. The workshop rooms were unfortunately on the small side. If attendance is growing, it will likely be even more crowded in 2 years. Bigger workshop areas are needed.

The main hall (posters / meal area) was very enjoyable. It struck a nice balance in size, being big enough to be comfortable but small enough to facilitate constructive interactions. Snacks and hospitality were enough to encourage vibrant attendance during the late "informal poster sessions", which is where some of the best interactions took place.

The talks and plenary sessions were enjoyable.

42. Great conference!

43. I drove to the meeting, but everyone I spoke with about the venue liked it a lot and thought it was very convenient to get to.

Much better than Pheasant Run.

44. Seemed ideal and way better than Pheasant Run!

45. In my opinion northern France for next meeting is not a wise choice. For a coastal venue choose a Southern location. Why north of France?? What's the motivation?

46. It was too cold during the meeting. Please check the AC because was uncomfortable to stay there focused on the talks.

Pre-workshops were good but too crowded.

47. It was nice to be back. Great to see all the new technology being applied to maize systems.

The evening venue was not cozy at all.

48. The hotel was a bit spread out, but I can walk. The audio at the back of the talks (ballroom) was not ideal - speakers speak up or turn up speakers. Also, questions need to be asked into the microphones. Irritating to not hear the question.

49. The poster sessions were my favorite part of the conference. This year there were a whole lot of posters and plenty of time to talk about them.

50. dual screen A/V was very good; audio generally very good; poster area was great even with that many posters; Union Station a great place; Registration a bit pricey, but that seems to be the future; all in all a great venue with a decent driveable distance from central Iowa.

51. Invite more talks from Outside the US

52. I wasn't sure if people appreciated the DJ since it was located off to the side. However, it did make it easier to talk with others since we didn't need to speak over the music.

53. It is an excellent maize genetics conference!

54. very nice talks!!!!

55. For local commuters, Union hotel wasn't the most convenient. I am sure there are nicer hotels that are NOT in the downtown.

56. Union Station is an awesome location - has much to offer, as does the surrounding area.

57. It was a great conference. As is normal for MGCs, the quality of science was very good. Food was excellent.
58. \* I appreciate your hard work on this!
59. I think that the pre-meeting sessions was a good idea
60. It was a very nice conference. Excellent talks and a great opportunity to meet people.
61. It was great. Great science, great people, great location. We drove in, so the questions on airport and transportation convenience don't apply to me. It was convenient and easy to drive to; parking was very reasonable.
62. Really enjoyed both the venue and the conference, I'm looking forward to attending here again (hopefully)!
63. St Louis location was great, but Chicago has better and cheaper airfare prices.
64. The meeting was great as always. I have nevertheless some comments:
- 1.) I found that using Metro Link from and to the airport unsafe. In both directions I had to witness security action in the train and would not use it again.
  - 2.) I would have preferred if meals had been served in another ballroom so that there had been more space for the posters.
  - 3.) The Hotel was nice but I found the total price for conference package + hotel for a location quite from a major city too high.
65. -conference room (regency ballroom) was too cold  
-not always enough vegetarian food options at lunch and dinner (food was good!)  
+conference was well organized, time schedule was good, service was good  
+friendly atmosphere
66. This hotel was definitely an improvement from Pheasant Run's facilities. Definitely enjoyed it!
67. The talks were uniformly good this year. However, there were too many focused on disease resistance stories. This may have been an artifact of the topics of those who asked to give talks. It would have been nice to have a more varied selection of topics in the future. For example, you can title the Sunday morning session "Interactions with the Environment," but every talk had to do with disease resistance; it's technically an interaction with the environment but a very specific one. In that case, just be honest and title it something to do with disease resistance.
68. Food was excellent, poster room was perfect and the hotel was a very appealing place to have a conference.
69. This was my first maize meeting. I Thoroughly enjoyed the conference. The community is very approachable.
70. Science and venue were both great!
71. Hotel room cost was above per diem, so it may have been problematic for certain people. Also a hub airport like Chicago would be easier for transportation. But overall waaaaay better than Peasant Run

72. The venue, location, and price were excellent. All we need is a song about meeting in St. Louis, and it would be perfect.
73. St. Louis is a growing area of plant science (Danforth Center, Monsanto, MOBOT, BRDG Park, many agtech start-ups), which makes it an excellent venue.
74. There were several times where there seemed to be a shortage of seats at dinner. there were empty places where people had been, but no way to get clean silverware/glasses. Having the caterers put some extra silverware/napkins waters on a tray in each area would be good. Also- some evening meals didn't have coffee out. that was bad.
75. Best maize meeting yet! THANK YOU! Really wonderful at all levels.
76. In a few cases meal lines were quite long
77. Great choice of the place!
78. Ohio is famous for its widely know universities and will be a constant state to hold the maize genetics conference
79. The hotel venue was excellent because it was centralized, all the talks in the one large room as opposed to spread out in different rooms all over an entire complex. The poster and dining area were both big enough to suit the requirements.
80. N/A
81. Excellent conference. As my first Maize Genetics Conference, it was a great way to open me up to other researchers in the field.
82. Great conference; better venue than Pheasant Run.
83. I enjoyed the conference and its venue and I believe that Union Station was a sound choice for MGC 2017... additionally, it seems clear to me that the venue has the space to allow for expansion, should the registration numbers continue to increase in future, which they surely will.
84. All of the talks were good this year, and the foods were much better as compared to last two years!
85. The hospitality room was a bit cramped. Would be better if a larger and more comfortable room was provided for hospitality hours.
86. Very nice venue, excellent service and great open place for poster/meals  
Nothing but good things to say
87. Excellent!
88. I really enjoyed how the talks were structured.
89. I like the venue and it is quite accessible from the airport. The only problem I had was the food. The quality was really not that good. I do not remember being disappointed in the food at Pheasant Run or the conference in D.C. However, the convenience of transportation from the airport (as opposed to Pheasant Run) supersedes the sub par food, in my opinion.

90. Maybe we should consider another place for the next Maize meeting. The Arabidopsis meeting is also in Saint Louis this year but located at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch. Maybe that can be another option.
91. Sound system in the conference room is not good, and the slides are way too low to see from the back. Food is disappointing. Poster area is way too crowded, would be nice to have the space we had at St Charles.
92. Excellent conference with good posters, talk, and food
93. All in all, I think this was a good venue when one considers other possible midwest locations. It had pretty much everything the community needs in terms of cost, location, and presentation space
94. Very Nice conference.
95. It was a great conference
96. My lab loved this location. Lets have it here for a while!

**Do you have any recommendations to improve the conference?**

1. Minor changes to consider. Have the coffee stations more clearly identified to have the wait staff bring coffee and other beverages to the tables during all meals. Some of the rooms had issues with the ventilation (fan blowing non-stop, no ability to adjust thermostat). Adjust spacing between poster boards. It was too hard to walk between them with authors presenting. I think there was space to move the dining tables towards the stairs and open up more space for posters.
2. Please make sure that they don't run out of coffee at the coffee break.  
Can the air conditioning not be so cold in the meal and poster area and in the room with the talks?
3. It would be nice to advertise day passes to those interested who cannot afford the full registration cost. This could provide additional revenue from individuals who would otherwise be unable to attend the conference due to lack of funds or those who are in industry positions where the company cannot afford to send everyone.
4. I have a small suggestion which, I think, would improve the conference.  
I do not know many of the speakers, and it is difficult to identify them after they have given their presentation so we can talk with them.  
I would encourage you to illuminate the faces of the speakers so we can see what they look like. Alternatively, I would encourage each speaker to have their photograph prominently displayed on the introduction slide for each speech so we can identify them later.
5.  
Free bar was very poor. They needed to serve larger glasses of beer and speed up the service/have more bars. The queues did not die down all night and encouraged early dispersal from the event. I wouldn't mind a nominal charge for beer but to stand in line for 20 minutes for a small half full beer detracts from networking opportunities.  
Food was good quality (much better than Pheasant run but often cold by the time it was served....especially breakfast. Cold eggs at 7am had clearly been prepared too long in advance with no effort to keep warm
6. spell checking, as in "favour" above to favor

7. Great program! thanks to the organizers. One suggestion, let's have more Genetics at our Maize Genetics Meeting! Kelly Dawe's talk on Abnormal 10 and neocentromeres was tops. more like that! Thanks.
8. I would only like to see more vegetarian options for the meals, apart from that I don't have complains.
9. I would like to see more quantitative genetics talks, but the current balance probably reflects the community accurately.
10. Carolyn Rasmussen's talk was one of the best I've heard in years. With all the quantitative data emerging, more modeling won't be far behind. Some years ago, all the computational talks were bunched into one session and that was terribly boring for many people. But sprinkling talks like Carolyn's throughout the program would help couple those doing the biology, those who think about modelling, and those who can help bridge. Maybe we should have a workshop on the basics of quantitative data and experimental design? Something like that is needed for our community.
11. The schedule seemed a bit disjointed this year - the talks were a bit unrelated each session.
12. I think the people come to this meeting for the science and the maize community, not for fancy dinners. If we can keep or even increase diversity of attendees, I think most would be happy to cut down luxury. It doesn't have to be Starbucks coffee in the breaks.  
Finally: Thank you so much for organizing this great meeting!
13. Coffee offered at every meal. Coffee. Coffee. Coffee. Great conference scientifically!
14. exceptional organization and meeting on plantbio.
15. I thought the 2017 Maize Meeting was really strong.
16. I do think that printed abstract books are an unnecessary expense for the the conference and can be eliminated in the future. I think that all graduate students that receive financial assistance should be required to help with check-in (make it more like 2 hour shifts per person instead of 5 hour shifts) and if they fail to show up, they will not receive the promised funding.
17. More selected abstract talks; the rime per talk could be reduced to 15 min.
18. I know that this would require more work (and maybe is not really feasible, just based on the abstracts), but would it possible that within the poster exhibition, posters within a section are a bit more sorted according to similar topics? Also it would be great to have a bit more space in the poster alleys to walk through. During poster sessions this was often difficult without disturbing other people.  
  
The rooms for the genome workshops were by far too small. Probably many people did not register for the workshops in advance and just went in. It would be good to have additional / more seats in these workshops next time.
19. Develop an app to include all the abstracts, names and contacts of the attendees, posters where you can select just those that you want to see it, etc. Plant and Animal Genome had one and worked very well. Probably that is expensive, but a cheaper version would save money in the long term (from all books printed) and also would be safe for the planet. It is very helpful for the attendees.
20. INSIST (maybe repeatedly) that speakers use the mouse to indicate the part of the slide that they are talking about. Otherwise, it becomes very difficult to follow them. Turning to one or the other of the two projection screens in a large conference room does not help.

Perhaps by 2019 we will have technology to duplicate on multiple projection screens a laser pointed at any one of them. That way, speakers will be freed from their own computer screen.

21. Please include more options for vegetarians. There were way too many desserts in both lunch and lunch and dinner that could be changed be replaced for another vegetarian dish in main course. There was not enough silverware and staff was not very helpful.
22. Improve the poster sections to allow a different mixups of crows at each of the two sessions. With the typical odds and evens, people have the chance to see (and miss) the same group of posters in each of the two sessions. Having (for instance) two numeration systems for each day, will change the group to which people have access from Friday to Saturday.
23. Since the conference is a social activity it would interesting to have more social activities than drinking and talking. It would be interesting to see if activities like games (table tennis, foosball, poker) would allow people to socialize and talk and create connections in a fun creative atmosphere.
24. One comment about this venue - there seemed to be a lack of seating/utensils for mealtimes. In the future, perhaps have people grab their utensils at the end of the serving line. Since people eat in shifts, this is much more conducive to the nature of the conference.
25. Conference could start on thursday after lunch, and we could move the workshops on sunday morning.
26. it was quite cold during the meals and the talks
27. No
28. I suggest moving the workshops to Sunday morning and doing some early talks Thursday afternoon. The on Sunday were not well attended which was a shame for the presenters.
29. I would rather see 10 to 15 minute short talks rather than 20 minute short talks. This would allow more people to present their research. It will probably improve the quality of the talks overall, since people will be forced to present the salient features of their work rather than bogging down in minutiae. People REALLY need to learn to organize their talks better.
30. The name tags could have the conference logo smaller and name and institution bigger, so it would be easier to read.
31. Provide instructions to speakers about using the microphones, sometimes it was difficult to hear presenters when they we not in an optimal position for the mic's pickup pattern and it seemed inappropriate to yell "Eat the mic!"  
  
Provide a laser pointer for presenters.  
  
Had a difficult time finding registration, maybe prepare a map beforehand.
32. No, I think it is a well oiled machine. Thank you!
33. The meal lines seemed to be a little slow, and it was not clear initially if the staff were bringing coffee to the table or if it was self-serve.
34. I don't think it is fair to disallow meetings during conference sessions, fine to discourage though.

35. More vegetarian options, please!

Day pass for local residents

New category for non-postdoc, non-student, non-PI academics - E.g. Research scientist or senior technician. The categories were confusing for several folks in my group

36. The poster area was really congested and it was hard to view posters with authors. Also there were not a lot of places one could sit together with people and have informal meetings during the poster session or around talks. The meal tables would have worked, but the hotel staff needed to set up and clean up constantly and so they were largely unavailable.

37. I expect this is already recognized, but a bit bigger room for the talks may be needed.

38. Conference wifi access information was not widely disseminated, and seemed spread mostly by word of mouth in the first day. This was a bit confusing, since the hotel room free wifi was accessible but weak from the main hall. Those that didn't get the memo about the conference wifi access were possibly frustrated by the weak signal of the hotel room network.

Any chance to negotiate better parking rates with the hotel?

39. As a student, it was frustrating that the hotel would not book \$135 rooms (the amount reimbursed), and instead made available rooms for \$145. Although a minor extra cost, it was annoying and seemed like a sneaky way for the hotel to make more money off of students.

40. Meals at St Louis were really unhealthy and without choices for vegetarians. Breakfast had no vegetarian foods. Everyone is not carnivore!

41. What can we do to promote more interaction after the talks? It seemed that very few people were asking questions.

42. As nice as it is to have a "go-to" place for the meeting, I might suggest we continue to move around and keep going new places - Indy, Bloomington (IL), Carbondale, Iowa, Quad Cities, Missouri, etc. We would never know how good one venue might be if we never left one that was mediocre, but satisfactory.

43. I wish breakfast were an hour later. I found the genomics talks most interesting, and I would be happy if they were a larger portion of the talks. As for the venue, I liked the hotel, but if there were a great option in a more rural setting I would be more comfortable. I understand that may not be possible, so if that's the case stick with this hotel.

44. Much larger rooms for any pre-Conference concurrent workshops to support drop-in attendance.

45. would like to see more talks from agro companies/industry.

46. How about introducing Interactive games between PIs and students?

47. Segregate oral presentations into smaller groups time sessions.

48. Having larger rooms for the pre-conference workshops would be very nice. Normally, these rooms have so many attendees there is only standing room available.

49. the air condition of the hotel was too cold!

50. There should be better screening and selection of talks.

51. The stories the speakers tell are all important, but it seems that the level of detail on how they use technologies can get rather tedious. Nathan's talk was an excellent example of sufficient technical detail but without overkill. Jim Birchler's work is awesome, and an example of how a career's worth of investigation coupled with innovation leads to entire paradigm shifts in genetics and their applications.

Students should come away from the conference with inspiration and awareness of how high the bar is to be successful, but not be overwhelmed and intimidated. It ends up being the challenge of the laboratory PIs to help students deal with this, breaking it into pieces that enable students to succeed, and build upon successes. I wonder how they achieve this.

52. Maybe we can have a hike or some group exercise in the middle of the meeting to deserve all that rich food.

53. \* Food was great but the conference is getting expensive for non-academics.

\* Would suggest trimming the food and beverage 15% or so.

\* Not all of the talks warranted the time allotted.

54. It would be very helpful to have a Maize Meeting App which would be more interactive than a pdf of the abstract book. It could have the schedule - what is currently going on, bookmarked abstracts so you can easily find the abstracts of all the posters you want to visit, links to all the abstracts from poster/speaker lists, etc.

55. Everything is great! Only one point is I really hope I can get coffee during the day instead of just 10am and 2pm. Because a lot of times I tried to get some coffee and I failed because the coffee session has passed and waiters have removed the coffee. I would love to have coffee in the whole morning, and right after lunch. Thank you.

56. I wish it weren't growing so large so fast. However, this is the mark of a truly successful conference.

57. I suggest that depending on the location it could be some guided visits at the same time as the workshops (before official meeting starts). Especially for students it is a great opportunity. Some companies may finance this type of event.

A possible finance for foreigner students would be great.

58. My preference would be a location near Chicago which would be easier accessible for international travellers.

59. poster session was not well thought through! next time have posters 1-200 even, then 1-200 odd, then 200-400 even, and finally 200-400 odd presenting. otherwise one can not talk to people with odd number posters if one has an odd number himself. 3 hours poster presentation per person is a bit too much, make it 1.5 h.

60. we need a mobile APP to easily pre-select posters for visiting.

61. Different options for breakfast every day instead the same menu all 4 days (include bagels, or different pastries and fruits each day)

62. There needs to be more time to talk to people. This could either come at the expense of fewer scheduled talks, or the meeting could run longer. On that note, midday on Sunday is a strange time to end a meeting. It would work better if the meeting ended at night, and people left first thing the next morning. Wednesday dinner through Saturday night would be a good schedule.

63. Try to avoid Daylight Savings in future years. Bring in more speakers focused on computational work (such as image analysis) and advancements in phenotyping.
64. If the breakfast can be improved, that will be great.
65. The Space is great. It is easy to get wrapped up in posters/dinner and not realize that the talks are starting. There should be a gong/bells/some kind of noise that gets rung 5 min before the talks start so people know to migrate to the theater.

The schedule for each session leaves 10 min for announcements, which frequently aren't used. Instead the session chairs use that time to keep relatively on time as questions go over time. But some people look at the schedule as if its gospel and then feel miffed if they are late for a talk that starts a little early.

I think its great that there is a code of conduct. One important thing is that people know who to talk to. i think that at the opening announcement, the speaker should ask the Steering committee to stand up (I think thats who people should report to) so people (especially new people) know who to talk to.

I think the party room needs to go. Too many bad things can happen. I have heard enough people who feel uncomfortable going to it, but know that it is considered to be an important networking opportunity.

66. Hardly any suggestions for improvement! This was a great meeting! The only thing we might try is enhancing the evening beverage periods in the poster area by encouraging individual-purchase options (quality, quantity, duration, accessibility, etc).
67. Food is worse than last year, and there is no constant snack supply during the meeting.
68. n/A
69. Morning blocks of talks consistently felt too long. It could be great to have two 30-min breaks rather than one 45-min break if works with the schedule.
70. It seems the cost of the meeting exceeds inflation.
71. If the conference is held at Union Station in future, I would recommend modifying the poster session's physical layout, as I found the space down the alleys too narrow and congested; ideally there would be space for people on either side while keeping a two person wide path in the middle. Perhaps moving posters to a small ballroom would improve this. Also, I heard from some that the vegetarian options were less ideal; improving vegetarian options slightly might be appreciated.
72. We definitely need more coffee between the dinner and the evening talk!
73. Hopefully we can book the bigger ballroom next time.
74. no
75. N/A
76. As a vegetarian, my only comment would be that may the vegetarian options could have had a little more protein so maybe some tofu or tempeh could have been included in the meals.
77. Have different division in who presents his/her poster at the second poster session; For example odd and even the first day, and first half versus second half the second day.

78. It would have been nice to have had some free time during the conference to visit other places in St. Louis.