



A professional society representing the nation's crop production and research consultants

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By  
**Dan Moser**  
NAICC  
2016 President

## Call to Action

In this installment's article I am addressing a very important "current event" that could potentially affect each of us in a very detrimental way.

Chlorpyrifos (Lorsban) is a widely-used pesticide in the United States of America. It has been widely tested and is labeled on many commodities and specialty crops to control insect pests. Currently, the

Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) is meeting April 19th to 21st, to change the long accepted use of this product.

If the SAP should change its current acceptable use policy regarding this product, we will be limited to very few pesticides remaining to control major pest problems in soybeans, wheat, sugar beets, as well as other crops.

I encourage all NAICC members to email [McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov) your major concerns that we have with losing Chlorpyrifos.

I am deeply concerned about EPA's upcoming Scientific Advisory Panel meeting. Not only could we lose the use of this product, but their actions may set a precedence of for the possibility of eliminating or restricting use of other products in the future.

I feel that this meeting has been called hastily. I am opposed to any attempt by

EPA to fundamentally alter its process for evaluating potential risk, and regulation of pesticides before sufficient review of the current system has been completed. Any change **MUST** be based on sound scientific principles. The failure to adhere to policies and regulations, reliance on a single epidemiological study for which the Agency does not even possess the underlying data, and the lack of a solid basis for the most fundamental assumptions, do not meet such a high scientific or policy standard. Under FIFRA, EPA is required to review the best available data, and I believe the EPA is not following statutory requirements. I respectfully ask you as members of NAICC to please email administrator McCarthy and members of congress to stop this potential loss of good chemistry.

## The Foundation Selects Three Students for Scholarships

**Congratulations!** Brandy Tannahill from Montana State University- Northern, Benjamin Fischer from Montana State University and Blake Szilvay from North Carolina State University were selected to receive the 2015 FEAE scholarships.

Brandy Tannahill, a student member of NAICC received the \$3000 Richard L. Jensen, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship for 2015. She is studying Agricultural Operations Technology with a minor in Agricultural Mechanics at Montana State University-Northern. She will receive her Bachelors degree in May 2017. Brandy currently has a 4.0 GPA.

A member of the NAICC Newsletter Committee, Brandy assisted the Past President's Council by scanning all back issues of the *NAICC News* that were not in electronic format and posting them on the NAICC website. Tannahill also formed the first NAICC collegiate chapter with the cooperation of the FEAE and NAICC Executive Board. This charter chapter will educate college students on career

opportunities in consulting and research and get them involved in the professional community. They will also have the opportunity to attend the NAICC Annual Meeting. (See article in June 2015 issue of the *NAICC News*)

Tannahill is employed at Research Designed for Agriculture in Yuma, AZ. Her duties as a Research Technician include research sample determination and data collection in compliance with trial protocols and GLP. She is also responsible for crop maintenance and supervision of staff to ensure uniform and cohesive documentation, application, and sampling methods for research trials.

Two \$1,500 FEAE Scholarships were awarded to Benjamin Fischer and Blake Szilvay for 2015.

Benjamin Fischer is a member of the National Honor Society and is working toward a degree in Crop Science at Montana State University. He will graduate next month.

Fischer is the son of NAICC Member Vernon Fischer with Columbia Ag Research, Inc., in Hood River, OR. Ben has worked for Columbia Ag Research for 5 years. His responsibilities included field research on orchard crops, vineyards, and field crops.

Blake Szilvay is from Siler City, NC and is a sophomore at North Carolina State University. Blake is working toward a Bachelors of Science degree in Plant and Soil Science with a concentration in Crop Production. Graduation is slated for May 2017.

Szilvay worked for several agricultural establishments since 2008 including as a general worker for a local produce farm and on the family cattle farm. Most recently, Blake worked for NAICC Member Al Averitt at Protech Advisory Services, Robeson County, NC as a field scout/ technician. He scouted tobacco and cotton, marked test plots, performed soil sampling and GPS surveying with the Nomad system. Szilvay plans to pursue a career as an Agricultural Consultant/Agronomist.



## Happenings on the Hill

Glenn Luedke, NAICC Legislative Assistant

### OSHA

Agri-business groups, including retailers and manufacturers, have signed a letter and sent it to the Senate Appropriations Committee. The letter urges the Senate Committee to resolve issues relating to the sudden and arbitrary change in its Process Safety Management (PSM) retail facility management interpretation. The recent change would establish new and stricter regulations for farm supply retail outlets, which in the past, had been exempt from PSM standards. The net effect of the changes would significantly add to the operating costs to the retailers, including storage and handling and security regulation for anhydrous ammonia. Further results from the changes have resulted in many retailers stating they will no longer supply anhydrous ammonia. Agricultural organizations are requesting the appropriations sub-committee on Labor, Health and Human Education and Related Agencies include language in the 2017 Appropriations Bill that would disallow OSHA to follow through on its requirements without going through the proper rulemaking procedures, cost benefit analysis and public feedback.

### GMO's

With the defeat of the recent Senate Bill to have a uniform GMO labeling law, more corporations, including major cereal companies, have announced plans to start labeling products and be in compliance with the Vermont law by July 2016. Manufacturers maintain that GMO ingredients are safe and healthy. Agricultural and commodity groups continue to support by the Congress to pass a preemption bill that would block states from enacting differing labeling requirements/regulations that would result in a patchwork of regulations, and create a voluntary labeling program.

### PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Public and private organizations have sent a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee urging swift ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The treaty creates a specialized, global system for the management and exchange of valuable plant genetic resources—the key to solving threats from plant diseases, insects and drought. The treaty was finalized and signed in 2002 but is still pending in the Senate. One hundred thirty nine countries (many are competitors of the U.S.) have ratified the treaty. The treaty would not change any U.S. laws and no additional appropriations would be needed to implement the treaty. The treaty will not diminish any existing property protections.

On April 4, 2016, the Senate voted unanimously to approve the Defend Trade Secrets Act (Senate Bill 1890). The Act would put trade secrets on par with other forms of intellectual property (similar to patent, trademark, copyright protection). A similar bill is pending in the House but no action has been taken.

### IRS

The tax law for small business partnerships for farms/ranches will change in 2018. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 was passed into law in November 2015 (initially in the budget bill and not the tax bill). The IRS Form 1040 was used in the past. Starting in 2018, IRS Form 1065 will be required and be much more complex and difficult to complete.

### UAV's

The Senate version of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2016 has come out of committee. This committee report contains over 60 pages of requirements for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Legislators and others predict that if enacted, the rules would have a serious effect on the development of this industry. Many of the provisions are said to be in harmony with the FAA's philosophy for regulating UAS. There appears to be substantial differences in the House and Senate versions of the FAA Reauthorization Act. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation added three noteworthy changes to the bill: 1. Establish a two-year deadline for the FAA to create a new operating certificate for unmanned aircraft delivery operators. 2. The FAA would have nine months to establish a rule for micro UAS (under 4.4 pounds) that would not require a pilot's certificate and would be operated similarly to model aircraft. 3. The FAA would have nine months to develop standards for UAS operations by institutions of "higher education". If the FAA does not complete the standards on time, the institutions could essentially operate on the same basis of model aircraft.

### USDA

The National Agricultural Statistics Service has the Certified Organic Survey underway. The Survey is voluntary and some producers may be asked to take in-person surveys. The results of the Study will provide growers, suppliers, policymakers and others in planning production and marketing programs to sustain industry growth. USDA's Risk Management Agency will use the information to evaluate crop insurance needs.

USDA announced recently there are nearly 21,800 certified organic growers in the U.S. and just over 31,000 around the world.

### EPA

On March 30, the U.S Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the Pacific Legal Foundation case (U.S. Army Corps of

*Continued on page 4.*

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Engineers v. Hawkes Company, Inc. (Hawkes Company is three family owned businesses providing peat for golf courses and other sports turf applications of family owned land which is used for peat mining). The case is said to be a possible precedent setting case that asks whether landowners can go to court if their property is labeled “wetlands” and subject to the CWA. Under the CWA, a jurisdictional determination by the Army Corps of Engineers is required to determine if lands are deemed wetlands and technically a “water of the U.S.”. If it is determined a “water of the U.S.” then the use of those lands would likely require a 404 dredge and fill or other permit before use. The Hawkes company wants to challenge the ruling, because the nearest navigable water is the Red River, 120 miles away and no surface water connection between the two. The Administration insists that such cases cannot be appealed until the landowner has navigated an expensive and lengthy permit process and been rejected. Traditionally, the Corps has argued that a jurisdiction determination only expresses the opinion of the agency and that a landowner cannot bring a legal challenge until a permit has been denied. The Eighth Circuit Court agreed with the Hawkes. The Supreme Court is expected to make a decision by June.

Agricultural groups have formed a coalition and asked a federal court to allow them to join the Anderson v. EPA suit. The coalition is seeking to join the lawsuit to defend the EPA’s current regulation of neonicotinoid seed treatments and to ensure the court and EPA fully understands the importance of treated seeds.

The Senate Majority is urging EPA to move cautiously as they assess risks to bees by a controversial class of insecticides. The Senate Majority’s argument is that limited findings from the EPA agency’s draft review of one neonicotinoid has prompted “misleading and sensational headlines” and prompted advocates to call for bans on certain uses of substances. The Senate committee has sent a letter to the EPA Office of Safety and Pollution Prevention. The letter calls for a risk-based approach in the neonicotinoid risk reviews and notes that scientists have generally agreed there are numerous factors causing bee declines and not just one single cause. The letter continues and asks that EPA proceed with caution and continuously evaluates the underlying assumptions in their approach. EPA is taking comment until April 14 on its January 6, 2016 draft risk assessment. On April 6, EPA Administrator McCarthy stated they feel they have made the right decisions to date and they are following science in their decisions and judging one pesticide at a time.

## QA Corner:

### Representative Samples Matter

#### *Guidance on Residue Sampling Techniques from a Sponsor Company QA*

By Torrance Lee

RQAP, Quality Assurance Specialist,  
Valent U.S.A. Corporation

Imagine a consumer at a grocery store purchasing potatoes for their meal tonight. More than likely, that individual will not purchase a strange green oddball potato that is a quarter of the size of a typical potato. Likewise, a processor would only use wheat that meets their quality standards. When it comes to harvesting crops for a residue study, it is critical that they be commercially representative of the crop. Residues studies are critical in not only determining the individual residue amounts found in the various crop matrices, but ultimately important because they help determine levels of exposure and the risk posed to the consumers. Having commercially representative crop samples allows for the determination of true residue levels. Anomalously high residue levels, which may result from misapplication or from harvesting noncommercial crops, result in the establishment of high Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) which can ultimately adversely affect trade.

To help ensure that representative samples are collected, it is critical that the protocol is carefully followed, even when every element may not be prompted in the field notebook. For example, if moisture is to be determined in grain, then it must be measured and recorded in the field notebook. If the crop is to be harvested at a certain growth stage, then it must be harvested at that stage. Protocols are often designed to ensure high quality samples and to preserve the integrity of the study. Therefore, bring the protocol, or a protocol-based checklist, to each critical event. Check to ensure that requirements can be met. While this may seem fundamental, it never hurts going back to the basics. It is also critical to check the field periodically to ensure proper crop growth and vigor. When samples are being collected, ask yourself, “Are they commercially acceptable?” If not, immediately consult with the study director.

There will inevitably be situations where unforeseen circumstances occur. If such an event occurs, communication with the study director is critical. If the crop needs to be harvested earlier or crop growth is delayed, collaboration is important to ensure the best possible samples are collected. If harvesting representative samples is not possible, accurate and complete documentation is important to allow for the best possible decisions to be made.

In summary, planting, growing, and harvesting a crop in accordance with the protocol (and good agricultural practices) is necessary in order to obtain samples which are commercially representative. Analysis of commercially representative samples results in residue levels that accurately reflect commercial practice. This removes the potential for inaccurately high (or low) residue levels which typically result from poor quality samples. Obtaining residue levels that are representative of the use on a crop are essential in establishing proper MRLs, thereby reducing possible negative impacts on trade.



## USDA Seeks Applications for Grants to Help Agricultural Producers Increase the Value of Their Products

WASHINGTON, April 8, 2016 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is making up to \$44 million available to farmers, ranchers and businesses to develop new bio-based products and expand markets through the Value-Added Producer Grant program.

“America’s farmers, ranchers and rural business owners are innovative entrepreneurs and this program helps them grow economic opportunities for their families and communities by increasing the value of the items they produce,” Vilsack said. “The Value-Added Producer Grant program has a great track record of helping producers increase the value of products and expand their markets and customer base, strengthening rural America in the process.”

Value-Added Producer Grants may be used to develop new products and create additional uses for existing ones. Priority for these grants is given to veterans, members of socially disadvantaged groups, beginning farmers and ranchers, and operators of small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches. Additional priority is given to applicants who seek funding for projects that will create or increase marketing opportunities for these types of operators.

More information on how to apply is on page 20607 of the April 8 Federal Register. The deadline to submit paper applications is July 1, 2016. Electronic applications submitted through grants.gov are due June 24, 2016. Additional information and assistance is available through the USDA Rural Development Office serving your county.

Since 2009, USDA has awarded 1,126 Value-Added Producer Grants totaling \$144.7 million. USDA awarded 205 grants to beginning farmers and ranchers.

Value-Added Producer Grants are a key element of USDA’s Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative, which coordinates the Department’s work to develop local and regional food systems.

Secretary Vilsack describes the cultivation of local and regional food systems as one of the four pillars of rural economic development that impacts farm family income and strengthens local economies. Under Secretary Vilsack, USDA has supported providing consumers a stronger connection to their food with more than \$1 billion in investments to over 40,000 local and regional food businesses and infrastructure projects since between 2009. Industry data estimates that U.S. local food sales totaled at least \$12 billion in 2014, up from \$5 billion in 2008. More information on how USDA investments are connecting producers with consumers and expanding rural economic opportunities is available in Chapter IV of USDA Results on Medium.

Two examples of Value-Added Producer Grant awards from 2015 include:

- Shoshone-Bannock Enterprises in Fort Hall, Idaho, received a \$75,000 grant to conduct a feasibility study on processing, packaging and marketing buffalo meat, a first step in identifying potential new market opportunities.

*USDA Continued on page 6.*

[www.naicc.org](http://www.naicc.org)

## NAICC Member Profiles

Lisa Wheelock-Roney  
Great Lakes Agricultural Research  
Service, Inc. (GLARS); Delavan, WI



Question: How many years have you been a member of NAICC?

Answer: 10

Q: How did you end up working in agriculture, research/quality assurance/consulting, or your current position? In other words, what inspired you to be where you are today?

A: I grew up on a beef, grain and poultry farm not too far from GLARS. I have been involved in ag through 4-H and FFA and attended an agricultural school, where I graduated with a BS in Animal Science. I came back to the area to be near family, and started at GLARS in 2005. The position of research efficacy technician and quality assurance auditor was a natural transition with my background and crop/soil classes in college.

Q: What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

A: When working with at least 20 different clients each year, it’s challenging at times to keep up with individual client requirements. The GLP’s and other regulations don’t change, but preferences with recording data and submitting data often do. Having said that, my job is never boring, always changing and challenging!

Q: What is the one piece of technology you wouldn’t want to be without in your business?

A: ARM (Agricultural Research Manager) for the efficacy trials. It provides for accurate and professional data recording. Our clients that don’t utilize ARM are always impressed by data reports.

Q: What have some of your contributions to NAICC been (including committee service, board membership, any traditions or programs you’ve helped to establish, etc.)?

A: One of the original members of the NAICC GLP Training committee (aka Researcher/QA Education Outreach); member of the QA Education Committee; 2016 co-chair of the Newsletter committee; 2015-2016 Director of the Executive Board – only the second QA elected to the Board in the history of NAICC

Q: What is something about you, your job, your hobbies, or your experiences that most NAICC members do not know about you?

A: While growing up, my sisters and I showed poultry extensively in SE Wisconsin and N Illinois. My father still is heavily involved with the 4-H and FFA youth as well as those interested in raising backyard fowl. I do not, however, have a huge interest in poultry anymore; I just help around my family farm when needed.

Q: If you could take one week off during your busiest time of year, what would you do and where would you go?

A: I love being a tourist in my own state. My husband and I never had a honeymoon, so we’d road trip around Wisconsin, hitting some of the hidden gems this state has to offer.

Q: What is a favorite quote of yours?

A: It’s a good day to have to good day! (Author unknown)

April 2016

- Sappa Valley Poultry in Oberlin, Kan., received a \$49,663 grant to expand distribution of their free-range chicken products into eastern Colorado and western Kansas markets.

Congress increased funding for the Value-Added program in the 2014 Farm Bill. That law builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful

reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers.

Since 2009, USDA Rural Development has invested \$11 billion to start or expand 103,000 rural businesses; helped 1.1 million rural residents buy homes; funded nearly 7,000 community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care facilities; financed 180,000 miles of electric transmission and distribution lines; and helped bring high-speed Internet access to nearly 6

## NAICC Mourns the Loss of Robert Stephenson

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of a future agronomist and future NAICC member Robert Stephenson, youngest son of NAICC member Patrick Stephenson and his wife Nicky, and brother Sam all of Pickering, England. Rob passed away March 26 after a traffic accident.

Below are excerpts from the celebration program and an email received from Patrick's good friend and NAICC member Allen Scobie. These words from Patrick and Allen far exceed anything else anyone could write about this outstanding young man.

### Patrick's tribute to Robert

As I write this, I am overwhelmed with sadness at our loss. We had 21 years of pure enjoyment with Rob, as a son and a brother. Children are a gift and ours were very precious.

I would love to say that Rob was a brilliant sportsman, an academic and a musician, but he wasn't, he was just Rob. As a parent the reality is you hope your children grow up as kind, loving individuals, who are happy and make friends easily.

In our Rob we had that in spades, he was a lovely lad. I thank all of you for playing a part in that, and to Newcastle University where in the last year he was maturing into a great young man.

We will never forget Rob and hope you will always have a warm spot in your heart for him.

I love you Rob.

### Allen's comments on the service and strength of the Stephenson family

"Patrick has been incredibly strong and extremely eloquent in spite of the family heartache and grief. Yesterday was one of the saddest days of my life, interspersed with moments of true joy as Patrick relayed warm and fond stories about Rob and put us all at our ease.

Patrick, Nicky and Sam showed true compassion yesterday as they stood and shook hands and embraced every one of the hundreds of people who came to mourn Rob's passing and celebrate his life. This was an expression of true love for a son and brother carried out with dignity, grace and strength of spirit.

A truly amazing family, grief stricken but not broken."

## Rob Stephenson Trust

We as a family have decided that we would like Rob's name to live on in some way. We were lucky that local sport and schools gave us and Rob, a superb opportunity to be part of the community.

We were lucky that we had the time and money to do so. Not all children are as lucky and we would like to help other families throughout the area to participate in sport and education. Sam was very keen that other families could experience the joy and fun we have appreciated of being included in teams. Rob was not outstanding, but a 100% team player, and in short most of us make up the numbers in life, but that's what makes teams and education so important.

Donations of sports equipment and money will be used to give these children the opportunity to join in, and enjoy so much of what Rob experienced.

Clothes and equipment will be collected to be sent to those that need it. Money will be used to fund those to go 'On Tour' that cannot afford it.

Lastly if any graduate would like to follow Rob's dream and study further, books will be funded.

Cheques made payable to Robert Stephenson and sent to Patrick c/o NAICC.



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**Watch your  
mailbox for the  
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The correct answer for the March newsletter  
was the movie "Alien".

Congratulations to Brian Schmid  
for winning the gift card!

Answer the following question for a chance  
to win a \$50 Visa Gift Card:

**What is the name of this team mascot?**



Submit your answer here:

<http://goo.gl/forms/4bZrzgtDsO>

One winner will be randomly selected from  
the correct answers and announced in the  
May newsletter.



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