



NAICC NEWS

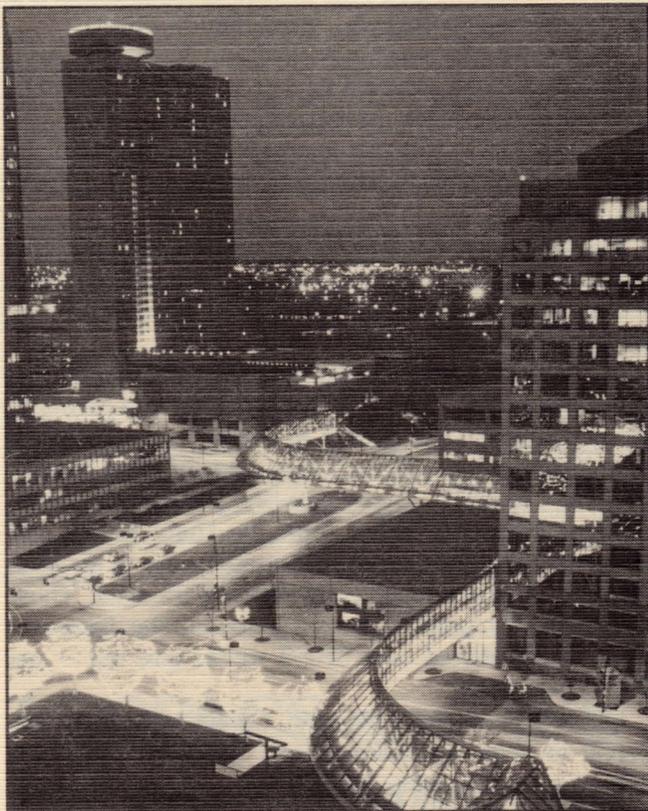
Official publication of the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants

Volume 5, Number 8

The Voice of the Professional Crop Consultant

August 1991

Plans for NAICC's 1991 Annual Meeting Target "Progress Through Cooperation"



Downtown Kansas City's Hyatt Regency Crown Center will be the site of the NAICC 1991 Annual Meeting.

Program planners under the direction of **Dr. Bill Blair** and **Dr. Robert Ascheman** are laying final plans for NAICC's 1991 Annual Meeting in Kansas City. It promises to be the largest and most carefully targeted yet held by the association.

Headquarters for the three-day program is the Hyatt Regency Hotel at Kansas City's Crown Center. NAICC members and guests can arrive prior to the Sunday, November 10, official opening to take advantage of reduced airfares and KC's famous steaks and jazz clubs.

The "Progress Through Cooperation" theme brings a series of "Cooperation" program segments to members' attention, with timely and pertinent issues to be explored

for direct benefit to independent crop consultants. Each will include presentations, group discussions, and VIP speakers to set the stage for a new year of work.

NAICC members will have the opportunity to assist in charting the future course of the Association at a Steering Committee luncheon on Sunday, November 10, at 12:00 Noon. All members are encouraged to arrive in time to attend this important discussion.

A thought-provoking Ethics Workshop, assisted by a grant from FMC Corporation, is scheduled for Sunday afternoon. Nationally known ethics expert **Dr. Laurence Hawkins** has signed on to moderate a spirited program that takes on increased importance with new federal government programs requiring strict independence and adherence to professional standards. This meaningful afternoon program is a continuation of Dr. Hawkins' series on ethics which began with the 1990 Annual Meeting, and was carried into 1991 with features in this newsletter, and through the work of NAICC's "Big I" and Ethics Committees.

"This will be a highlight of the Annual Meeting," says NAICC moderator and Ethics Committee chairman, **Don Jameson**. "Professional ethics remains one of NAICC's most important program areas."

NAICC's 1991 Annual Meeting will also address specific interests of its diverse members, including contract researchers, business owners, and field supervisors. Contract researchers will have their traditional breakfast on Tuesday morning, November 12, and will convene again for a program session that same afternoon. Other program segments are being planned to provide valuable professional information for owner-managers and sole proprietors.

NAICC's Annual Meeting officially concludes with the banquet program on Tuesday evening, but most members will want to take advantage of optional Kansas City ag tours on Wednesday morning. Already, tours of the extensive Mobay Chemical Corporation laboratories and nearby Agricultural Hall of Fame have been discussed.

"If you're a professional crop consultant or contract researcher, this is one meeting that's worth every minute of your time," says NAICC President-Elect **Dr. Bill Blair**.

Progress Through Cooperation

Madeline Mellinger, NAICC President

My travels and experiences over the last month have convinced me that we chose well when we selected "Progress Through Cooperation" as our annual meeting theme. Indeed, "Progress Through Cooperation" should become an agricultural industry battle cry. Working together has always been and must remain agriculture's ace in the hole.

Near the beginning of my term as your president I wrote on Mother Nature's bi-coastal wake up call – the drought in the east and Florida's freeze and torrential rains, coupled with the arrival of *Thrips palmi*. Thankfully, the rain finally came to California in March, providing a temporary respite from the drought. But just as California farmers were getting into the swing of a pretty good harvest up and down the valley, another kind of tragic disaster unfolded.

On July 17th, a railroad tanker car derailed on an infamous turn in a steep section of track and fell into the Sacramento River, where it ruptured. As very bad luck would have it, the car was filled with some 19,000 gallons of the herbicide/insecticide Vapam. Moreover it landed in and began flowing down a 45 mile stretch of prized California trout stream, the headwaters of the Sacramento River, which flows into and out of Lake Shasta some 150 miles north of Sacramento.

The ecological effect of this spill will be significant and could become a major concern. Most importantly, we all hope that efforts to contain the damage are successful. But let's face it – accidents happen and this one will reinforce old fears and raise old questions about pesticides, particularly if detectable levels of Vapam are found later this year in Sacramento's drinking water.

Exactly one month earlier in Sacramento, another kind of event occurred – a positive exercise in "Progress Through Cooperation." It was the first western regional meeting of the National Coalition on IPM (NCIPM). Following in **Earle Raun's** footsteps, I am a member of NCIPM's steering committee and was privileged to attend this meeting, representing NAICC and independent consultants.

The discussion was lively, constructive, and focused on advancing adoption of IPM. The dialogue was shaped by the contents of a Working Blueprint for implementation of IPM, developed by the National Coalition. **Pat Weddle**, chair of NAICC's Outreach committee was also in attendance as a member of the new NCIPM California steering committee. He contributed significantly by convincing everyone that new bridges must – and can – be

built uniting farmers, environmentalists, and government leaders.

The NCIPM Blueprint is now in its 8th rendition, and is an important and evolving document. I invite all NAICC members to read it – it is inserted with this newsletter. Please share your thoughts about how it can be further strengthened. Remember, I serve on the NCIPM steering committee and am convinced that the Coalition will gladly accept any constructive suggestions from NAICC, as they have in the past. I am sure you'll agree a few such suggestions are warranted, particularly where the Blueprint discusses the role of independent consultants.

Unlike the Vapam spill, the western regional NCIPM meeting was not covered by the media as big news; yet, what it represents could be far more important in the long-run than any isolated – albeit tragic – event.

To me, our efforts within NAICC and during the Sacramento meeting represent a sincere and growing effort by a broad cross-section of individuals in the public and private sectors – to work together to promote biologically based solutions to crop protection needs. That's the good news.

The bad news is that while we are investing our time and organizational resources in making a step forward, forces seemingly beyond our control too often arise, pushing us two steps back.

In Kentucky, someone has started a rumor that NAICC is behind a plan that would force Nebraska farms to develop, without the benefit of dealer/fieldman recommendations, integrated farm management plans in order to retain eligibility for commodity programs benefits. Nothing could be further from the truth! NAICC, its members, and our affiliate organizations are at the forefront of progress through cooperation in the state. Those still trying for political purposes to fan the flames of discord that started over SP-53 should give me – and NAICC – a break.

Up in Washington, those in Congress working sincerely to solve ag-environmental problems suffered a serious setback in early July.

Recall that just a few months ago many congressional leaders were patting themselves on the back for passing an environmental farm bill that included several new voluntary incentive programs, as requested by then Secretary Yeutter and supported by nearly all farm organizations. When the time came in July to appropriate the funds needed to implement the bill's environmental provisions, though, the ag community's attention was elsewhere and other priorities commanded all available funds.

Des Moines Register reporter George Anthan, one of the most respected ag journalists in the country, began his July 7th column by writing: "In an arrogant and misguided display of raw power, the House Appropriations Committee has frustrated the aims of conservation policy that were carefully developed by Congress in the 1990 Farm Act".

Anthan goes on to point out that the House Appropriation Committee's action "ill-serves farmers" and will embitter environmentalists. A conservation policy leader

in Washington is quoted by Anthan saying "We tried to play it your way (voluntary incentive programs) and this is what we get for it. Now environmental moderates will look at regulatory operations."

These developments drive home the message that we have to work together. We have to pick our targets well and we have to raise our voices.

Strengthening NAICC itself is the best way to strengthen NAICC's voice. Recruiting new members is high on my personal agenda during the remainder of my term as president. Please help by filling out the Alliance Building Campaign Form sent out in the last newsletter AND by following up through personal contacts with prospective new members.

Through the good work of Agri/Washington - much of it well beyond the call of duty (and our contract) - we are making progress in the Alliance Building Campaign and on many other fronts. But let's remember we, the members of NAICC, still have to play the key role in convincing colleagues around the country to join NAICC and participate in NAICC events like the annual meeting.

These are challenging times for consultants and the American farmer. Individuals serving agriculture through science and technology, like all members of NAICC, must make and act upon personal commitments to become part of the solution.

It is not enough to be simply a member of the group. A few active members cannot pull the whole load. We must each be stewards of what we represent and further the causes we endorse. Those who don't actively participate leave the hard pulling to others and make it tougher for us collectively to "progress through cooperation." I hope you like our theme as much as I do, and that we will all come to live by it!

ARCPACS and APS Develop Registry of Plant Pathologists

The American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops and Soils (ARCPACS) and the American Phytopathological Society (APS) have joined forces to develop a Registry of Professional Plant Pathologists.

Although the two organizations have not formalized the arrangement, the outlook is promising, according to NAICC member **Dr. Larry Stowell**, chairman of the APS private practice committee. It was this committee that pressed for APS certification.

If all goes as expected, the first certifications for Professional Plant Pathologists could be issued in May 1992. In addition to Plant Pathology, ARCPACS is reviewing similar arrangements for professional certification in Horticulture and Weed Science.

NAICC has also applied to ARCPACS for administration of its own certification program.

ARCPACS is rapidly becoming the premier professional certification organization in agriculture. NAICC will keep a close watch on these certification developments and opportunities.

Program Outline Completed for 1991 Annual Meeting

NAICC members should plan to be in Kansas City on Sunday, November 10, to take full advantage of NAICC's 1991 Annual Meeting. Committee meetings begin as early as 9:00 AM, followed by a working Steering Committee luncheon at 12:00 Noon that provides an opportunity for all members to help set the future course of the National Alliance. The Ethics Workshop will follow this important luncheon discussion and a gala President's Reception opens its doors to all members and guests that evening.

Here is a sneak preview of the 1991 Annual Meeting format:

Saturday, November 9

12 Noon - 5:00 PM Board of Directors' Meeting

Sunday, November 10

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Registration
9:00 AM - 12 Noon Committee Meetings
12 Noon - 1:30 PM Steering Committee Luncheon
Open to all members
1:45 PM - 5:30 PM Ethics Workshop
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM New Member Reception
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM President's Reception
Exhibits Open

Monday, November 11

7:00 AM - 9:30 AM Consultants' Breakfast
Discussions
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Exhibits Open
8:00 AM - 12 Noon Registration
10:00 AM - 12 Noon General Session I
12 Noon - 2:00 PM Awards Luncheon
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Certification Program and
Independence Discussion
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Annual Business Meeting
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Champagne Reception
Exhibits Open

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EPA Registers Genetically Engineered Microbial Pesticides

For the first time, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved for sale two genetically engineered microbial pesticides. Both products, MVP and M-Trak, contain the naturally occurring bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) and are produced by San Diego-based Mycogen Corporation.

"Extensive scientific studies on these two microbial pesticides have undergone careful review by EPA and we are satisfied that use of these products according to label directions will pose no danger to public health or to the environment," said **Linda Fisher**, EPA's Assistant Administrator for Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

MVP controls caterpillar insects including the diamond-back moth and is registered for use on cabbage, broccoli, lettuce and other crops. M-Trak controls the Colorado potato beetle and is registered for use on potatoes, tomatoes, and eggplant.

Surprisingly, the first registration of a genetically engineered microbial pesticide met with little opposition from environmental groups. The key to these products' success is that the genetically engineered, pesticide producing bacteria are already dead when sprayed on the plants, thus alleviating concern that the bacteria would multiply and spread.

Specifically, the toxin-producing B.t. gene is inserted into a *Pseudomonas fluorescens* bacterium using recombinant DNA techniques. This bacterium reads the "genetic blueprint" from the gene and produces the necessary toxin. After mass fermentation, the recombinant bacteria are killed with a process that stabilizes the microbial cell wall, forming a protective wall around the insecticidal protein. This "CellCap" technology prevents the protein from biodegrading before the insects can ingest them.

"We have enhanced the performance of a naturally occurring insecticide which gives farmers reliable, effective and environmentally sound pest control," says **Dr. Jerry Caulder**, president and chief executive officer of Mycogen. "These products are highly specific and do not adversely affect nontargeted organisms or the environment. They are an ideal alternative or complement to many chemical insecticides."

Caulder realizes that Mycogen's biggest obstacle now is getting farmers to switch from traditional use of agricultural chemicals. Caulder acknowledges that cost and effectiveness of the new products must at least match chemical products already on the market.

Advances in biotechnology offer hope to farmers and growers, especially in the area of minor use crops such as fruits and vegetables, as restrictions on chemical pes-

ticides tighten due to pressure from environmentalist organizations and the general public. In fact, MVP, M-Trak and other biological pesticides have been given an exemption from EPA residue tolerance checks.

If legislation such as the Kennedy/Waxman Bill (H.R. 2342) currently being proposed in Congress were to pass, the cost for chemical companies to develop and register safer and more effective agricultural chemicals would increase substantially. This could limit the development of pesticides for minor use crops. Caulder estimates the cost of developing a new biological pesticide at around \$5 million compared to \$80 million for a new agricultural chemical.

And the red tape biotechnology companies have to wade through to get products approved may be lessened if the government heeds the advice of the White House Council on Competitiveness, headed by Vice President **Dan Quayle**. The Council has urged EPA to simplify the process for registering genetically engineered crops and pesticides. It took Mycogen six years from the start of the first field trials to win approval for MVP and M-Trak.

Environmentalists are quick to point out, however, that although Mycogen is leading the way through the regulatory process, it may not make it any easier for companies working on products based on living microbes.

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Tuesday, November 12

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Exhibits Open
7:00 AM - 8:45 AM	Contract Researchers' Breakfast
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	General Session II
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Exhibits Open
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM	Burning Issues
12 Noon - 1:30 PM	NAICC Luncheon
2:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract Researchers • Soils & Fertilizer Issues
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	President's Reception
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	NAICC Banquet

Wednesday, November 13

9:00 AM - 12 Noon	Kansas City Tours
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Board of Directors' Meeting

NAICC BUSINESS NOTES

NAICC Membership: More Important Than Ever

The Alliance Building Campaign (ABC) is winding down, but NAICC needs to continue building membership to maintain its momentum in national and professional matters. Numbers are the key to success when an association represents a profession such as independent crop consultants.

"But the best way to get those valuable new members is on a one-to-one personal basis," says NAICC Executive Vice-President **Paul Weller**. "We need each current NAICC member to sign up a colleague. It means a lot to the association!"

Slides Needed for Annual Meeting Program

NAICC members are urged to take lots of action slides this summer and fall. In addition to inclusion in an expanded Consultants' Photo File at NAICC headquarters, the slides will be incorporated into an exciting new audio-visual presentation at the 1991 Annual Meeting in Kansas City.

"We'll need at least 200 35mm color slides for the A-V presentation," notes NAICC Executive Vice-President **Paul Weller**. "These should be shots of NAICC members in action, field shots, working with clients, inspecting field plots, and maybe even laboratory work."

The slides will be incorporated with general transparencies being provided by ICI Americas, Inc., sponsor of the 1991 Annual Meeting A-V show. They will be shown at the opening of the program, as well as during program breaks.

"Take them now, and send them to NAICC headquarters by October 1," Weller notes. "When we're finished with them, we hope to make them available for use by the media and at local and regional meetings."

NAICC Quoted in Prestigious Washington News Magazine

Thousands of Washington, D.C. VIPs read about NAICC in the June 29th issue of *National Journal*, a prestigious weekly magazine circulated to Members of Congress, White House officials, and business leaders. The \$750 per year publication has been a leading source of "insider" information on Federal Government matters for nearly 20 years.

Author **Graeme Browning** interviewed NAICC Ex-

ecutive Vice-President **Paul Weller** for the magazine's "Focus" page, which was a well-researched feature on "Farming Without Chemicals."

"Suppliers of information and equipment for alternative farming are already the fastest-growing segment of the agriculture industry," Browning wrote. "Membership in the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants, a Washington-based group of agronomists [sic] who (unlike traditional crop consultants) are not allied with chemical companies or other commercial interests, has grown 35 percent in the past year alone, according to executive vice-president Paul S. Weller."

The full-page feature concluded that a growing trend to low-input farming methods (LISA) is posing a definite threat to traditional farming groups and methods. It quoted a key Congressional aide with saying: "You're replacing resources with information. It's not like farming with a mule anymore. It's farming with your head!"

NAICC Sponsors Gallup Environmental Survey

More than 400 "Agricultural Influencers" participated in a national Gallup Poll survey of environmental concerns during May and June. The nation-wide survey was sponsored by NAICC, in cooperation with BASF Corporation and its Kansas City-based public relations agency.

The famed Chicago-based Gallup Organization conducted and compiled the survey, which queried 405 randomly selected crop-oriented Extension agents and crop consultants on their awareness of herbicide issues. NAICC Secretary **Maggie Alms** was extensively quoted in the final release of data to trade and general media.

The survey respondents listed environmental concerns such as groundwater quality, proper handling of pesticides, and consumer perceptions of farming practices as the prevailing pesticide issues of the 1990's. Independent crop consultants were widely noted and acclaimed in the final news release.

"Public welfare is an integral part of our recommendation process," Alms said of independent crop consultants. "We factor in the environmental impact of any particular product or practice." The four-page release portrayed consultants as dedicated protectors of the environment.

Main purpose of the Gallup Poll was to find out the extent of knowledge and concern among key agricultural advisors of weed resistance to current herbicides. Results were mixed, and Alms noted that education would play a crucial role in making both influencers and growers aware of potential environmental problems such as weed resistance.

NAICC is now working with BASF representatives on a national Gallup Poll of key growers, with results to be released in the Fall. The program is part of NAICC's continuing effort to promote the role of independent crop consultants in modern agricultural practices.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

NAICC Outreach committee chairperson **Pat Weddle's** environmentalist outreach program is gaining attention. The June issue of *Agrichemical Age* features a story on Weddle's first outing in a series of three "field days" (see July issue of *NAICC News*). "As Weddle sees it," reads the article, "crop consultants, because they are so intimately involved in the environments where they live and work, might be thought of as 'agricultural ecologists.'" Weddle is quoted as saying, "independent crop consultants have a rare and unique opportunity, if not a professional responsibility, to bridge the gap between the rural agricultural community and the predominantly urban environmentalist community."



Patrick Weddle, shown here inspecting a codling moth trap, uses his "field days" outreach program to communicate to environmentalists and policymakers how the regulatory process restricts innovation in pest management, resulting in increased instead of reduced pesticide use.

NAICC Newsletter committee chairperson **Randy Van Haren**, Pest Pros, Inc, Plainfield, Wisconsin, authored the "Crop Consultant Briefings" section of the July issue of *Agri Finance* magazine. Van Haren's article, "Generating the greatest returns from crop scouts," discusses how to hire, train and supervise scouts. "We look for people with good observational skills, a demonstrated work ethic, honesty, intelligence, and an agricultural background," Van Haren says in the article. "Knowledge of plant pathology, horticulture and entomology are a plus; willingness to work is a must."

The July issue of *Agri Finance* also ran an article entitled "How crop scouts fit (or don't fit) into consulting firms," featuring four NAICCers. The article notes that because of difficulties in hiring scouts, some consultants are reducing their acreage and doing their own scouting. **Shannon Gomes**, C8MP, Ltd., Waverly, Iowa, says he is able to charge less per acre than many consultants because he doesn't have the overhead of hired scouts. Likewise, **Dana Palmer**, Lubbock, Texas, says cutting back his acreage has caused gross income to fall, but

net income and client satisfaction has risen. **Vernon Meints**, president of Agri-Business Consultants, Okemos, Michigan, says finding good scouts is becoming increasingly difficult. **Calvin Viator**, Thibodaux, Louisiana, concludes the article saying, "We will likely need to get away from the use of seasonal people and concentrate more on permanent employees of higher caliber, even if it means less expansion for an individual crop consulting firm."

That's NAICC member and Harlingen, Texas consultant **Curt Wilhelm** on page four of the July issue of *Ag Consultant* magazine. Wilhelm discusses the severe whitefly and boll weevil infestations in the Lower Rio Grande Valley cotton fields due to late replantings following floods. "All in all, I'd say my crop's going to be an average crop. Some's real good cotton, a lot of sorry cotton, and some in the middle," Wilhelm says in the article.

Glades Crop Care continues to receive media attention for their role in discovering the first continental U.S. infestation of *Thrips palmi* and documenting its spread throughout Florida. The May issue of *American Vegetable Grower* notes that Glades representatives met with federal and state (Florida) agricultural officials and university entomologists to discuss biological and chemical control strategies. **Dr. Charles Mellinger**, Glades' technical director, emphasized that for insecticides to be effective, they must be applied perfectly in order to reach into the tiny cracks and crevices in which this pest lives. Mellinger and associate **Galen Frantz**, the NAICC member credited with identifying the first *Thrips palmi* infestation, also co-authored an article on thrips in the journal of the Florida State Horticultural Society.

According to the *Agaware Bulletin*, the newsletter of the Agricultural Awareness Council of Palm Beach County, Florida, NAICC President **Madeline Mellinger** has been elected to the first board of directors for the group promoting awareness of agricultural issues in the nation's third largest county in agricultural production. The NAICC leader was also mentioned in **Len Richardson's** "Back Talk" column in the June issue of *Agrichemical Age*. Richardson quotes Mellinger's President's Message in the May issue of *NAICC News*.

"LISA: She's Not My Favorite Girl" is the title of an article authored by NAICC member **F. Todd Tremblay** for the April issue of *Potato Grower of Idaho* magazine. In the article Tremblay hypothesizes what would happen to Idaho potato production if Low Input Sustainable Agriculture (LISA) were mandated by Congress. He estimates that production of Idaho potatoes would drop approximately 60 percent under a LISA-type program, resulting in a \$305,000,000 loss in receipts on the farm. The reason for the drop in production is that soil organic matter cannot begin to meet the nitrogen demand of potatoes when they are bulking out in July. Tremblay suggests that a good pre-plant soil test and a good plant analysis program are the two factors involved in a potato fertilizer program safe for the environment and economical for the grower.

Bruce/Bliley Offer Alternative Pesticide Bill

On August 2, 1991 Representatives **Terry Bruce** (D-IL) and **Thomas Bliley** (R-VA) introduced "The Food Quality Protection Act of 1991." The Bruce/Bliley Bill is an alternative to the Kennedy/Waxman "Safety of Pesticides in Food Act of 1991" (see July issue of *NAICC News*) and would streamline the pesticide cancellation process, set a negligible risk standard, allow for benefits calculation in establishing tolerances, mandate national uniformity of pesticide tolerances, and promote IPM techniques to reduce pesticide use.

Specifically, the bill would amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) by: 1) eliminating the current formal adjudicatory hearing requirement for cancellation of registrations; 2) requiring EPA to reassess each tolerance in conjunction with reregistration under FIFRA; and 3) requiring EPA and USDA to research, develop, and disseminate IPM techniques that would facilitate reduction of the use of pesticides that pose a greater than negligible risk, with special focus on minor crops.

The bill amends the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) by: 1) eliminating the Delaney clause, or zero-risk standard, for pesticide residues in food; 2) setting a uniform negligible risk standard for pesticide residues in raw commodities and processed food by calculating the actual percentage of food treated with the pesticide and actual residue levels; 3) allowing EPA to consider health, nutritional and consumer benefits when establishing tolerances; and 4) mandating national uniformity of tolerances.

The bill also mandates that USDA collect pesticide use data for all major crops and crops with dietary significance, and to coordinate with EPA to assure that the data is appropriate for their exposure and benefits calculations.

Summaries of the Bruce/Bliley Bill and a side-by-side comparison of current law, the Bruce/Bliley Bill and the Kennedy/Waxman Bill are available from NAICC headquarters. Return the enclosed reply card indicating "Bruce/Bliley summary" and/or "side-by-side comparison" to receive copies.

USDA Secretary Forms Environmental Task Force

"We want to do what's right for the environment," USDA Secretary **Edward Madigan** told NAICC and other Washington-based agricultural groups at a late-July luncheon. With that comment, he announced a major new USDA initiative that puts USDA Assistant Secretary **Jim**

Moseley in charge of a blue-ribbon Environmental Task Force. Moseley will be joined by three other USDA Assistant Secretaries to chart USDA programs and initiatives that put environmental protection as top priority.

It's too early to predict the impact of Madigan's plans on independent crop consultants, but at least one USDA insider sees increased opportunities for environmental impact statements, field analyses on soil and water conservation, and ICM/IFM management plans. "It's a sure bet that Extension, SCS, and ASCS personnel can't carry the full load!" he says. The Task Force will review all new USDA initiatives for environmental impact.

Secretary Madigan's Environmental Task Force is a part of his continuing effort to revamp USDA programs and procedures. He has ordered an efficiency review of all 113,000 staff positions and equipment assignments. "We need more bang for our buck!" he says. "Maybe we can re-allocate and re-assign some of our funds." One area he expressed an interest in was his own personal telephone system, which often has several conversations going at the same time. Another was an accurate inventory of USDA vehicles. "One staffer tells me we have 64,000 vehicles, while another claims we have 84,000," Madigan grouched.

Madigan was upbeat in his outlook for his own job, as well as that of USDA. He noted that there have been six Secretaries of Agriculture during the past 16 years, but that he intends to have a long run at the corner office overlooking the National Mall. He also noted that there will be a billion more mouths to feed early in the next century, and that American farmers will be called upon to do much of the job. "It's an exciting time," he says.

Blumenthal Named White House Ag Advisor

Ex-Yeutter aide **Gary Blumenthal** has been shifted to the White House to be agricultural advisor to President Bush. Blumenthal takes over the staff position from ex-Congressman **Cooper Evans** (R-Iowa), who resigned last November to return to farming.

Blumenthal served in several USDA positions, including the Foreign Agriculture Service, before moving up to Yeutter's personal staff. When **Edward Madigan** came in this spring as Secretary, the former Congressman brought his own Capitol Hill staff, and Blumenthal needed to move on. The White House position has been a controversial one since its inception under President **Jimmy Carter**, because few Secretaries of Agriculture want a White House advisor who might be closer to the President and his senior staff.

Evans found the job to be frustrating, and elected to leave after the 1990 Farm Bill was completed. The position remained open for eight months. Blumenthal will not work full-time on agricultural matters, and will have other domestic policy and Cabinet duties. Funds for the position come from USDA, so Madigan may have the final "say" after all.

NEW MEMBERS

VOTING

Larry Carmean, B.S. (Pest Management)

Carmean Consulting
P.O. Box 4885
Fresno, CA 93744
Office: (209) 225-8499 Home: (209) 225-8491
FAX: (209) 225-9161

Crops: Citrus, grapes, almonds, stone fruits, pome fruits, walnuts, pistachios, figs, olives, kiwis, avacodos
Services: Pest monitoring and control recommendations

Robert Mathews, B.S. (Ent., Microbiology)

Glades Crop Care, Inc.
16789 Epson Drive W.
Loxahatchee, FL 33470
Office: (407) 746-3740 Home: (407) 790-2417
FAX: (407) 746-3775
Crops: Sugarcane, sweetcorn, seedcorn, vegetable crops
Services: Crop health

STUDENT

Sherry E. Lajeunesse

Box 3864
Bozeman, MT 59772
Office: (406) 586-1021

PUBLICATIONS

Weed Identification Book

"Weeds of the West" is a new weed identification book edited by **Tom Whitson**, University of Wyoming, and published by the Western Society of Weed Science.

The book includes full-page color photos of over 300 varieties of weeds prominent in the Midwest, South and East, as well as the Western United States. It also shows close-ups of growth stages for each weed and points out identification features.

Copies of the book are \$19.50 each, postage and sales tax included. Order from: University of Wyoming Bulletin Room, P.O. Box 3313, Laramie, Wyoming 82071-3313.

Nitrogen Nutrition of Cotton: Practical Issues

A report from an American Society of Agronomy workshop held in February 1990, co-sponsored by NAICC, is now available. *Nitrogen Nutrition of Cotton: Practical Issues*, **W.N. Miley** and **D.M. Oosterhuis**, editors. Published by the American Society of Agronomy. Softcover, 115 pages, 1990. Price \$15.00.

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Send orders to: ASA Headquarters Office, Attn: Book Order Department, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53711-1086. Indicate *Nitrogen Nutrition of Cotton: Practical Issues* and number of copies ordered. Send payment with order.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 22-27 - International Symposium on Soil Testing and Plant Analysis in the Global Community - The Hotel Royal Plaza, Orlando, Florida. For additional information, contact COUNCIL headquarters, P.O. Box 2007, Athens, GA 30612-0007, or call: 404/546-0425.

September 8-11 - NASDA '91 - Sheraton Seattle Hotel and Towers, Seattle, Washington. Annual meeting of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. For registration forms or information, contact **Art Scheunemann**, conference coordinator, at 206/753-5046.

September 11 - Agronomy Research Center Field Day - Purdue University Crop Diagnostic Training and Research Center. For more information contact **Ben Southard** or **Don Griffith**, Purdue University Agronomy Department at 317/494-4799.

September 13-14 - National Horticulture Short Course - Orange County Civic Center, Orlando, Florida. For more information contact **Uday K. Yadav** at 407/323-2500, ext. 5559.

October 12-17 - International Conference on Potato Pest Management - Snow King Resort, Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The conference program will address current knowledge and identify research needs and gaps related to management of insects, diseases, and nematodes of potato. Contact **Geoffrey Zehrder**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, at: 804/442-6411.

October 30-31 - California Agricultural Production Consultants Association Annual Conference - The Nugget, Sparks, Nevada. For more information contact Wanda Strew, 100 Valley View Drive, Petaluma, California 94952. Telephone: 707/795-0311

November 8-10 - American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers 1991 Annual Meeting - Hyatt Regency Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona. Contact: **Nancy Morgan** at: 303/785-3513.

November 11-12 - Herbicide Action - Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. An intensive course on the activity, selectivity, behavior, and fate of herbicides. Contact **G.F. Warren** at 317/463-1130.

November 10-13 - NAICC Annual Meeting - Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact Executive Secretary **Paul Weller** at: 202/785-6711.