



NAICC NEWS

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The Voice of the Professional Crop Consultant

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1991 Annual Meeting Offers Members Ideas and Formulas for Success



NAICC members from around the country will soon be gathering to share ideas and exchange business tips.

"Our livelihood as individual consultants depends on the success of the National Alliance. At our Annual Meeting we will work to resolve how to deal with our competition ethically and profitably, how to remain unbiased and how to convince clients and others of the value of our services. This meeting will give us a chance to get together and exchange ideas about what things work and how we can survive as independent consultants." That's the observation from NAICC President **Madeline Mellinger**, referring to NAICC's 1991 Annual Meeting on November 10-12 in Kansas City.

With that in mind, program planners have designed an agenda that's packed full of professional improvement and business assistance segments. The "Progress Through Cooperation" theme means progress and success for NAICC members through a cooperative working relationship among independent crop consultants as well as with association and industry leaders.

The Kansas City experience begins on Sunday, November 10, at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center. That morning members will have a unique opportunity to become involved in the business of NAICC by attending committee meetings such as Ethics, Outreach, Certification, and many others. Members will be able to chose three of these meetings in which they would like to have input.

All members will then join forces at a special Steering Committee luncheon to discuss and debate the NAICC long-range plan. NAICC leaders have given much thought to formulating a plan for the long term success of independent crop consulting through the advancement of the goals of the National Alliance.

"We're at an important crossroads," says Steering Committee Chairman **David Harms**. "We need members' input as we look to the future of our profession."

Later that Sunday afternoon, NAICC members will be able to explore an important follow-up session on professional ethics with **Dr. Lawrence Hawkins**, internationally known management consultant who initiated his series at the 1990 Annual Meeting.

Monday morning's Consultants' Breakfast Discussions will provide NAICC members with several important opportunities to talk with each other about business issues including a session on marketing your services. Participants will then move into the general session where President Madeline Mellinger will open the dialogue on NAICC's role in a fast-changing agricultural environment.

The rest of Monday's sessions include panel discussions on the roles of independent and commercial consultants, a first-hand report on growers' impressions of independent crop consultants, and the latest updates and dialogue on REAP and professional certification.

Tuesday morning's breakfast options include a choice between a contract researchers' discussion or a session addressing the key role of media and how to gain beneficial publicity for your firm and profession. The general session that morning moves into a fast-paced exchange on the environment, and how to live and prosper with environmental activists. That afternoon, NAICC members will move into half-day options. Members can chose between a special contract researcher's session or presentations on fertility issues.

Also on the docket for the Annual Meeting are sessions on such hard-hitting topics as the fertilizer industry's view on SP-53, the National Academy of Sciences' report on pesticides in children's diets, sustainable agriculture, and delivering on the promise of science and technology.

NAICC members are the VIPs at this Annual Meeting!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Progress Through Priorities

Madeline Mellinger, NAICC President

You should be excited about the tremendous progress NAICC has made this year. We have maintained steady, principled progress on all our priority issues, despite some unexpected difficulties. The health of NAICC is a direct measure of the stature of our profession.

You understand better than anyone that your success as an individual practitioner is tied to how crop consulting is perceived by our various constituencies. That's why I urge you to get even more actively involved with NAICC activities, leading up to and including a professionally rewarding and fun annual meeting in Kansas City.

Major Steps Forward

With each passing month the effectiveness of our Washington office operations is improving. Executive Vice President **Paul Weller** and his staff are getting more and more efficient in carrying the heavy workload NAICC has assigned to them. They are helping make our presence known in ways that only respected Washington insiders can.

Your organization continues to run in the black, although we would all like to see more of NAICC's operational expenses coming from the organization instead of from the officers' personal accounts and the generosity of individual members.

Our Educational Foundation has now been incorporated and we are ready to start a systematic fund-raising effort. Do you know any potential benefactors among your clients, people who have come to appreciate the unique services offered by members of NAICC, who might consider making a gift to our foundation?

The newsletter has been through a wonderful metamorphosis, and now links us and informs us in ways which we only dreamed about a year ago. I am convinced that continued improvements in the newsletter are one of the best ways we can serve, challenge, motivate, and tap the collective intelligence of you, the members of NAICC and the readers of its newsletter.

But we're not just talking to ourselves. We have the attention of folks who call the shots in Washington and our state capitals. We now have excellent, ongoing dialogues with a dozen key federal officials.

Just as important, we have gained recognition and respect from the major ag-industry trade associations, commodity groups, general farm organizations, and even a few conservation and environmental groups. And our visibility and credibility with the press continues to improve.

People both in government and private sector organizations want to know what NAICC is thinking and what

we are doing. Are people watching NAICC because of our immense political power, our huge membership, or the size of our (non-existent) PAC? No. We matter to decision-makers and power-brokers because of our credibility and thoughtfulness in addressing some of the nation's key issues of agricultural science and technology, environmental and food safety issues – all pretty hot topics these days. Our credibility is based on our independence, both as individual crop consultants and as an organization.

We are almost ready to present to the membership the findings and recommendations of the Big I Committee (see article on page 4). We must be determined to complete most, if not all, of the major actions needed to implement the Big I Committee's report by the time incoming President **Bill Blair** takes the gavel. Then he can focus his energies on critical new initiatives, ongoing activities, and building our many strengths.

Unfinished Business

Your officers, committee chairs, and committee members have a very full plate over the next few weeks, between now and the annual meeting:

1) We must complete the Big I Committee report, decide the appropriate mechanism to act upon its recommendations during the annual meeting, and prepare any needed resolutions for action. And we must communicate with the outside world what we have done – and why.

Developments on this front are moving ahead with growing momentum. NAICC is ready to initiate its certification program, and ARCPACS has begun serious work toward a program which will certify individuals in a new Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) program. This program will certify competence as measured by education, experience, and a written test, but will not certify independence.

In the last few months the concept of certifying employment type according to independence from product sales has become, shall we say, a bit of a hot potato. Whether we like it or not, NAICC's growth – indeed our very existence as an organization – will keep us pretty near the epicenter of whatever storms blow over on these independence and employment issues.

2) We have a full roster of upcoming meetings to attend. Both the Steering Committee and the Board will meet once before the annual meeting in November and many other committee meetings are scheduled. In addition, several officers will be attending other important outside meetings.

As I write this, three NAICC members, my husband **Charlie**, **David Harms**, and **Pat Weddle** are at a national conference discussing how the community can more effectively promote IPM. Paul Weller will represent NAICC and speak on certification and ethics issues at the American Registry of Professional Entomologists (ARPE) annual meeting this month. And I have been asked to address the same topic at the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) meeting in October.

3) We have NAICC elections upon us; that critical time of the year when we approach a fork in the road – a place where decisions have to be made about direction. Look forward to helping a strong new group of leaders. Maybe you will be one of them.

4) Last, but certainly not least, we have to continue building our strength as an organization. We must pursue this objective on three fronts: people and new members, service to our members and the nation through well-focused activities, and securing new sources of financial support so that NAICC can seek – and get – quality professional help as we become more active.

Let me close by posing a question: What can you do in the next ten weeks to help us progress in these critical areas?

Come to Kansas City with:

- one good idea,
- one prospective member as a guest,
- a passion to serve on a committee, and
- great ideas for kicking off the Educational Foundation fund-raising effort.

Think how much we will accomplish. It can be done. It's in our hands – yours and mine.

REAP Schedules "Kick-Off" Meeting

After years of planning, REAP (Registry of Environmental and Agricultural Professionals) is ready to be introduced to the public. NAICC Executive Vice-President **Paul Weller** and other members of the REAP steering committee put the final plans in place at a Washington, D.C. meeting on August 26.

A preliminary briefing for government and industry officials was held the following morning at a major downtown hotel. Press folders designed and printed by the Rodale Institute were distributed with copies of REAP's mission statement, programs, and membership. The briefing was the last phase before official introduction of the program next month.

Plans are to officially announce REAP at a gala Washington, D.C. meeting on Tuesday, October 22. Steering Committee members want to use the "kick-off" meeting to fully explain the REAP concept, and to sign up members for the January 1, 1992 membership year.

REAP is expected to eventually provide full certification services for members, a newsletter with government and industry information, a national database of certified professionals, and a public relations and promotional campaign to tell the story of environmental and agricultural professionals' work for the public good.

"REAP may be our last chance to effectively unite the environmental and agricultural communities toward a common goal, NAICC's Weller says. "We cannot afford to fail in this endeavor."

More than \$45,000 has been committed to REAP to date, most from federal agencies with a strong interest in

professionalizing consultants and other industry advisors. NAICC was one of the first member associations to officially join REAP and pay membership dues. Goal for 1992 is to sign up an additional two dozen or more societies and associations, then elect a board of directors to set policy for an active 1992 program.

Louisiana Consultants Cope With Suspension of Azinphos-Methyl

It has been a tough year for sugarcane growers and their consultants in Louisiana. A mild winter followed by the heaviest spring rainfall on record resulted in an extremely high sugarcane borer infestation. And last month, EPA attributed a kill of as many as one-half million fish and an unknown number of birds, turtles, and alligators to the primary weapon against the borer, azinphos-methyl. Apparently, runoff contaminated with azinphos-methyl aerially applied to sugarcane is being linked to the kill.

The EPA finding quickly led to the voluntary suspension of the azinphos-methyl label for sugarcane in the State of Louisiana until December 31, 1991. Since that time, three aerial applicators have had their licenses pulled for alleged application inconsistent with labeling. All of this leaves consultants with few sugarcane borer control options to recommend to their clients.

NAICC member **Calvin Viator** is one of those consultants. "I've been in the business 30 years and this is the worst infestation I've seen in some areas," said Viator. "After the suspension, we were limited to using Asana." Asana, according to Viator, is slow to kill and is not as effective on larger borers and larvae.

Consultants were just recently provided with another option when they received a crisis label on Baythroid, a product being developed by Mobay Chemical Corporation. "I've just put out some Baythroid, but I don't have the results yet," said Viator.

According to NAICC member **Harold Lambert** the problem was most likely caused by a combination of factors. "The high rainfall moved [azinphos-methyl] to the waterways," noted Lambert. "At the same time, there were areas with stagnant water and low dissolved oxygen that made the fish more susceptible."

Hearings will be held in November to determine whether or not the aerial applicators misapplied the chemical. Until then, consultants are faced with another problem as a result of the crisis. "We're down to one-third of our aerial applicators in the sugarcane belt because of the suspensions and two (unrelated) accidents," said Viator.

Viator is optimistic that the sugarcane crop will come out alright this season because the suspension came late in the season when infestations and rainfall have slowed down. "If the suspension had come early in the season, the problem would have been much worse," said Viator. "We need to get azinphos-methyl back for next year."

Steering Committee Develops Long-Range Plan

The NAICC Steering Committee, under the direction of Chairman **David Harms**, has begun the rather difficult but necessary task of developing a long-range plan for the association. All NAICC members are being asked for their input into this important process

"I realize that we are still in the midst of our busy season," says Harms, "but the Steering Committee would like the help and guidance of all NAICC members, including Voting, Provisional, Student, Honorary, Academic, Affiliate and Sustaining members."

A working outline for the situation analysis follows:

- I. Purpose of NAICC (What)
- II. Funds/Resources (What-Who-How)
 - A. Financial
 - B. Personal/Committee
 - C. Support
 - D. Agri/Washington
- III. Membership (Who)
- IV. Product Offered (What - to Whom)
- V. Membership Needs
- VI. Association Needs
- VII. Market (7 others)
 - A. Crop Consultants
 - B. Researchers
 - C. Sustaining Members
 - D. Students
 - E. Academic
 - F. State
 - G. Affiliate
- VIII. Goals (What do we want to be)
- IX. Future Outlook
 - A. One Year
 - B. Three Years
 - C. Five Years
 - D. Ten Years

The Steering Committee will meet September 20-21 to discuss the situation analysis and develop the long-range plan and would like your input by September 16. Please mail or fax your comments to David Harms, 33 W. Bailey Road, Naperville, Illinois 60565; phone: (708) 420-2999; FAX: (708) 355-1581.

"If you will just take a few minutes right now and send me your thoughts you will be making an important contribution to your association and to your industry and

profession," urges Dave. "You will find it to be a significant factor in your company's future and your future as well."

The committee hopes to present the long-range plan, including strategies for implementation, at the special Steering Committee luncheon to be held on Sunday, November 10 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center during the NAICC Annual Meeting in Kansas City. All NAICC members are invited to attend this working luncheon and participate in the planning process. Sign up for the luncheon by checking the appropriate space on the annual meeting registration form included with this issue of *NAICC News*.

Big "I" Committee Finalizes Report

Following a busy summer -- both for committee members and their fax machines -- the NAICC Committee on Independence Issues is nearing the completion of its assigned task. A report has been distributed to the Board. On September 9, the Board will review by conference call the report and all comments. If approved, the report will then be distributed to members before the annual meeting.

"The founders of NAICC were keenly aware that 'independence' is the most significant word in our name," says committee Chairman **Bruce Nowlin**. "Without a concrete definition of that term, however, there are too many 'gray areas' that consultants face, both as individuals and as a profession."

Because circumstances vary widely for consultants who work in different parts of the country or who specialize in different areas, it isn't practical to get too concrete with definitions of independence and ethics, according to the Nowlin. "This became more and more clear during the deliberations of the committee - every time we would answer one question, another few would pop up," said Nowlin. "That process was healthy and helpful, though, and I believe the end product is stronger as a result."

The report offers a framework by which all NAICC members can measure their own ethical standards. It also offers uniform criteria for those outside the organization to use in gauging NAICC's success in these areas.

"All NAICC members should carefully read the final report, so that we can discuss and act on its recommendations during our annual meeting in Kansas City," said NAICC President **Madeline Mellinger**. "Thanks to FMC's special 'ethics grant' we have been able to make this happen. The report will also help us achieve our meeting theme, 'Progress Through Cooperation.'"

Background

At the January 11-12, 1991 NAICC Board of Directors meeting, a decision was made to establish an ad hoc committee to assess a range of independence issues that

are of great concern to all NAICC members. A committee was formed, chaired by Bruce Nowlin and including NAICC members **Don Jameson, Dan Bradshaw, Pat Weddle, and Charles Benbrook** (see February issue of *NAICC News*).

The committee began its deliberations by exchanging information and ideas about independence and membership related issues. After considerable dialogue and reflection, a draft memorandum was completed in February which served as a point of departure for deliberations.

This memo was then used to structure a late February discussion among a group of Big I committee members and NAICC officers in Alexandria, Louisiana. The results of the Louisiana meeting were recorded in a memorandum to the NAICC Board and discussed at length during the May board meeting.

Based on guidance from the Board, further input from the members of the Big I Committee, and many communications from members of NAICC, the committee revised its report and recommendations, which is now under review by the Board.

Members of the committee who have been burning some midnight oil on the report are hopeful that work can be completed on the report and that final actions will be taken in Kansas City. "It's time for NAICC to codify the significance of the 'I' word in 'NAICC,'" committee member Chuck Benbrook said. "We expect our efforts to help NAICC and its individual members to interact most beneficially within and outside the agricultural community."

The report, entitled "Procedures and Tests of Independence Governing Membership in the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants," begins with this statement: "Independence remains the single most important distinguishing characteristic of both the individual member of NAICC and NAICC as an organization."

In its current form, the report contains four basic recommendations. Two deal with membership categories and related questions, with the goal of clarifying the membership options for a wider range of consultants and contract researchers interested in joining NAICC. Two other recommendations address independence issues – both for individual members and NAICC as an organization. Specific definitions and criteria are spelled out regarding the rules that apply to voting and non-voting membership categories.

One of the basic goals the committee kept in mind, according to Chairman Nowlin, was to assure that the benefits of membership in NAICC should be extended to all agricultural professionals who meet the education and experience requirements, who pledge to adhere to the NAICC Code of Ethics, and who are committed professionals working toward profitable and sustainable agriculture.

Because of the importance of Big I Committee issues, "we need and want the input of all members as this committee's work comes to a close," President Mellinger said.

Ethics Workshop Planned for Annual Meeting

NAICC Ethics Committee Chairman **Don Jameson** encourages all NAICC members to attend the Sunday afternoon, November 10, session at the annual meeting on "How to Determine Ethical Choices Out of Tough Situations." "This will be a hands-on, solid, how to run your business discussion and workshop," says Don.

Dr. Laurence Hawkins of the Blanchard Training Institute, who led the session on "Ethical Leadership" at last year's meeting in Orlando, will again guide NAICC members through the components of making sound, reputable, high character business and personal decisions. The tests of an ethical decision, and the five principles of ethical power will be exercised in discussions of real and hypothetical case studies.

As NAICC President **Madeline Mellinger** has stated: "Although complex sets of moral and ethical principles govern all human interaction, agriculturists must consider additional unique responsibilities, particularly since the public is so vitally concerned with food production. Independent consultants must be sensitive to the way society judges farmers while also adhering to legal and ethical considerations such as nondisclosure, trade secrets, and confidentiality. Codes of ethics provide guidance in defining a consultant's obligations to clients and the broader society. These efforts will be discussed as part of an ongoing metamorphosis within an emerging profession, designed to broaden the public's confidence in science-based agricultural systems."

In a consultant's work environment, the ethical dilemma may not be of your making, but you must react. As an example, how should you as a consultant react to the following situation:

Forty percent of your sales volume is to provide management services in fertility, tissue testing and pest management on a high value vegetable crop. Your niche is with smaller scale operators that usually only contract a couple of fields with any of several local processors.

Come early spring you find your smaller clients are only getting about one-half the normal number of acres contracted. There is (ironically) acreage expansion among larger corporate growers who have "in-house" field service. You hear tell that contracts are awarded by processor company field staff according to "favors" given and bestowed on the fieldman by corporate companies and their in-house field service.

Several of your smaller clients come to your office and ask how you can help them, by interceding to achieve awards of more acreage. They have a plan they are sure will work – if it's presented quickly. Without a successful change of prospects, you foresee a 20 percent loss of sales revenue.

Now, as an NAICC member in business for eight years, how will you proceed?

Plan now to join in trading insights and sharing wisdom at the annual meeting in November.

Time To Nominate Communicator of the Year

One of NAICC's most coveted annual awards is its "Communicator of the Year" honor. It's presented to that NAICC member who is judged to have done the most outstanding job in publicizing the independent crop consultant profession.

The original deadline for nominations was September 16, but this has now been extended until Monday, September 30, to assure a broad cross section of qualified nominees.

NAICC members may use the nomination form enclosed with this issue of NAICC News, noting the judges' criteria and score sheet. Members may nominate another NAICC member or themselves.

Last year's NAICC Communicator of the Year was 1990 outgoing president **Dan E. Bradshaw**, honored for his untiring efforts to promote and publicize the association and its programs. The 1991 winner will be similarly honored at the special Awards Luncheon on Monday, November 11, in Kansas City.

Don't miss this chance to nominate a winner!

Let the Good Times Roll

A new event at the annual meeting and a new facet of the Alliance will appear on the evening of November 12. At the Tuesday night banquet, a silent auction and a live "take your bids now" auction will be held. It will be an evening of "good times" for all.

The AAA (Auction for Alliance Actions) will raise money for the new NAICC Foundation, designed to support educational activities. Your donations to the auction are needed!

What are some of the items already donated? Consider this great contribution – a two-day Texas goose hunt and lodging, courtesy of **Dan Bradshaw**. Or, from an anonymous donor, a photo of **Dave Harms** "hard at work" (you'll have to see this photo to believe it).

We're looking for all kinds of donations -- old farm items from the barn, memorabilia from NAICC meetings, items of value and ones of no real value (except for the laughs they will provide all of us at the auction). Search your closet, attic or garage to find the perfect item.

If you have something to donate to this good cause, call **Patty Orlowitz**, auction coordinator, 816/474-9407. And bring your piggy bank on November 12 to Kansas City.

Annual Meeting Check List

NAICC members should begin their countdown this month in preparation for the 1991 Annual Meeting on November 10-12. Here's a handy check list:

- Finish taking action slides for NAICC's big audio-visual show, and send them to NAICC headquarters;
- Nominate NAICC's top communicator for the "Communicator of the Year" Award;
- Finalize that special item for NAICC's Tuesday evening "Auction for Alliance Actions" (See article in this newsletter), and send a note describing it to NAICC headquarters;
- Use the enclosed hotel reservation card to reserve a room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kansas City for NAICC's 1991 Annual Meeting;
- Sign up a fellow independent crop consultant as a NAICC member to boost NAICC's 1991 membership (Membership dues are half-price from now until the end of the year);
- Invite a colleague to attend NAICC's 1991 Annual Meeting with you.

NAICC Petitions for Certification

Progress is being made on professional certification of independent crop consultants, a dream sought by NAICC leaders for many years. NAICC's Board approved the final guidelines for member certification in June, and has petitioned the ARCPACS professional registry in Madison, Wisconsin for administrative support and supervision.

"NAICC would like to request that ARCPACS provide the administrative and related services necessary for certifying crop consultants," petitioned NAICC Executive Vice-President **Paul Weller**. "It is our feeling that under the spirit of REAP, professional societies and associations should work together to provide certification for member professionals working with the public."

Weller noted that ARCPACS is ideally suited to assist NAICC with these services until they may be provided by REAP or NAICC itself.

Certification chairman **Dr. Earle S. Raun** approved the official request to ARCPACS, noting that the professional agronomic registry is already operational, and could begin certifying NAICC members almost immediately. "We want to maintain the momentum," Raun says.

NAICC members approved certification as a major association initiative at the 1990 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. Committee and Board members moved ahead to develop and approve specific guidelines. A copy of the guidelines have been included in this issue of NAICC News. These will now govern the professional certification process.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

NAICC Officer **Maggie Alms**, Alms Consulting, Lake Crystal, Minnesota, is the author of the "Crop Consulting" column in *Ag Consultant* magazine's August issue. The article, entitled "Are You Listening," focuses on the "service" aspect of the NAICC catch phrase "Science and service for agriculture." Listening to the client is an important part of that service, according to Alms. "We need to listen to our clients. What are their specific questions, their needs, their worries? Why have they hired us? What solutions will work, or not work, for them?" Alms gives consultants tips on how to be a good listener and concludes, "Crop Consulting is based on science. But what we do is a service. Listening is a key part of that service. It is a behavior which needs to be cultivated. It is both challenging, and rewarding."

Also in the August issue is an article on professional certification crediting NAICC past president **Dan Bradshaw** with advancing the concept of a Registry of Environmental and Agricultural Professionals (REAP) in the late 1980s. The article highlights NAICC's involvement in the REAP program and quotes NAICC Executive Vice President **Paul Weller** as saying, "It's time to move REAP from volunteer to 'active' status. The first step is to market the concept to professional and scientific groups to gain membership and funds."

The same issue of *Ag Consultant* quotes NAICC president elect **Bill Blair's** "Blair Report" which told readers in Ohio, "We have never seen so many grasshoppers." The report urged careful soybean defoliation evaluation.

NAICC member **Galen Frantz**, Glades Crop Care, Jupiter, Florida, is back in the news. Frantz brought professional and personal honor to himself and Glades Crop Care as the recipient of the prestigious Florida Entomology Society's Entomologist of the Year Award for Industry. Frantz was honored at the annual meeting on August 6. Frantz also presented a paper describing two Thrips species new to Florida which present serious economic threat. The paper was co-authored by NAICC member **Charlie Mellinger**.

And Charlie and **Madeline Mellinger**, Glades Crop Care, Jupiter, Florida, co-authored a column on responsible pesticide use for the July issue of the "Ferguson Ag Report." "American agriculture faces a public confidence crisis regarding food safety," reads the article. "Responsible chemical and pesticide use must be a uniform concern. Applying such agents must not be primarily a matter of just checking the calendar or tossing a coin. Neither is remotely acceptable." The article lists three vital goals in scheduling pesticide application: "First, only no more chemical than is necessary for control should be applied. Secondly, the product should be placed where it will be most effective. Finally, timing application should coincide with the pest's most susceptible life stage." The article concludes, "professional assistance can often be invaluable."

WASHINGTON NEWS

Supreme Court Rules on Pesticide Authority Case

Who will regulate the use of pesticides in the U.S.: the federal government with uniform national standards, or state and city governments with a patchwork of localized ordinances? The U.S. Supreme Court joined the fray on June 21 when they ruled unanimously that the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) does not prohibit local governments from regulating the use of pesticides.

The case of *Wisconsin vs. Mortier* began in the small town of Casey, Wisconsin when a local Christmas farmer challenged the town's 1985 ordinance requiring permits for pesticide applications (see May issue of *NAICC News*). The local circuit court and Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled in favor of the farmer citing that FIFRA pre-empts local pesticide authority.

The Supreme Court's ruling to the contrary was based on its opinion that FIFRA does not clearly establish preemptive authority over states or other political subdivisions. The court emphasized that "FIFRA's authorization to the states leaves the allocation of regulatory authority to the 'absolute discretion' of the states themselves, including the option of leaving local regulation of pesticides in the hands of local authorities." Industry representatives contend that Congress intended to preempt local regulations when drafting FIFRA. However, the court found Congress' intent "at best ambiguous."

Industry also argued that numerous local ordinances would lead to "regulatory chaos" and that local governments do not have the resources or technical expertise to effectively regulate the use of pesticides. The court's response was: "Congress is free to find that local regulation does wreak such havoc and enact legislation with the purpose of preventing it."

This effectively shifts the debate to Congress, which was already immersed in hearings on the issue before the August recess and will return to face this new development. Of two food safety bills currently before Congress, the Kennedy/Waxman "Safety of Pesticides in Food Act of 1991" and the Bruce/Bliley "Food Quality Protection Act of 1991" (see August issue of *NAICC News*), one, the Bruce/Bliley Bill, mandates national uniformity of pesticide regulations.

A group representing a wide variety of food and agricultural interests calling themselves the Coalition for Sensible Pesticide Policy (CSPP) has stepped in to lobby Congress and the Administration for "legislative repair" to FIFRA that will "restore the basis for federal/state preemption of pesticide regulation."

The Supreme Court decision will force Congress to clearly define their intent as to who should hold the authority for regulating pesticide use in the U.S.

NEW MEMBERS

VOTING

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Clemson Offers Nematode Identification Course

Clemson University's Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology is offering a nematode identification course for professional consultants this December 30, 1991 - January 7, 1992.

The course is equivalent to a two semester credit course and will provide training in separation of nematodes from soil and plant parts and identification of plant-parasitic nematodes to genus. The course instructor will be **Dr. Stephen A. Lewis**, Professor of Nematology at Clemson.

Registration fee is \$400 and includes instruction, laboratory equipment, workbook, pictorial key to genera of plant parasitic nematodes, continuing education certification, and break refreshments. Enrollment is limited to 18 students. Pre-registration is required.

See Calendar of Events on this page for contact address information.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 15-18 - **1991 Society of Quality Assurance Meeting** - Kansas City, Missouri. The theme for this year's meeting is "Visions for the 90s." For registration information contact SQA Headquarters, P.O. Box 1412, Annandale, Virginia 22003. Telephone: 703/914-0835, FAX: 703/658-8887.

October 27-31 - **American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting** - Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado. For more information contact ASA headquarters at 608/273-8080.

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.

December 30-January 7, 1992 - **Nematode Identification Course for Professional Consultants** - Long Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina. Contact: Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology, Clemson University, 118 Long Hall, Clemson, South Carolina 29634-0377. Telephone: (803) 656-2335 or 656-3450.