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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By Bill Cox
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President

2004 Annual Meeting Kicks New Year Off With a Bang

Wow! If the last two weeks in January are any indication, this is going to be a busy year.

It started on the 17th, when our son Jarod married his long-time sweetheart, Meredith. Marcene and I left for the NAICC Annual Meeting in New Orleans the next day. We returned to Las Cruces on the 25th and I left for the New Mexico Crop Production Association meeting on the 26th.

Wow! pretty well describes the NAICC Annual Meeting, too. The hotel was filled with lots of new faces, thanks in part to Syngenta's Cotton Symposium and Bayer's New Member Program. New faces bring new ideas and new energy. Hopefully, we can tap into those ideas and that energy to propel the organization to new heights.

The program this year was particularly strong. Roger Carter and the others on the Annual Meeting Coordination Committee did a great job of finding topics and speakers of interest to crop and research consultants from all over the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

I particularly enjoyed hearing talks by other consultants. Joe Townsend from Cahoma, Mississippi, started off a very

interesting session on Thursday morning, which also featured talks by Mike Kasowski of Minnesota and Virgil King from Mississippi. These consultants shared ideas and experiences involving precision agriculture and how they're incorporating it into their businesses.

More emphasis was placed on Consultant-to-Consultant interaction this year, and I think it's a format you'll see more of in the future. We're particularly blessed in NAICC to have some of the brightest minds in agriculture as members.

The Consultants Roundtable on Saturday morning was a sounding board for thoughts and ideas between fellow consultants.

Blaine Viator, Chairman of the 2005 Consultants Education Committee, was at the Roundtable furiously taking notes. I expect some of the topics we addressed to turn up at the 2005 meeting in California.

I thought the new format for the Emerging Technologies session was also an improvement. The presenters were allotted just enough time to describe their products and how they fit into today's farming practices. Consultants could then take that information to the booths at the Exhibit Hall and get specific information on products and services of interest to them.

As is the norm, there were numerous opportunities to network and socialize. The Exhibit Hall Extravaganza was well attended and generated plenty of excitement. Many thanks are due to all of the exhibitors and sponsors who made it all possible.

The Mardi Gras Party, sponsored by FMC, was a rousing success and a fitting finale to a great meeting. King Ray and Queen Dorothy ushered us into a real taste of New Orleans. The food was spicy; the music was great.

Another addition to the 2004 Annual

Meeting was the raffle. Rather than an auction this year, we decided to raffle off the items donated by NAICC members at the Mardi Gras Party on Friday night. We had two separate raffles, one for the shotguns donated by FMC and Bob Glodt, and another for all the other prizes. Names were drawn throughout the course of the evening.

Thanks to the generous donations by NAICC members, the tickets bought by NAICC supporters and the hard work of Ms. Barbara Coburn, we were able to generate about \$7,000 this year. The funds will be used to support the Richard L. Jensen Memorial Scholarship and the Dads in D.C. reception. A special thank you to all who participated.

Those of you who attended the President's Luncheon and Awards Ceremony heard me address the group on the need for NAICC to change, and I can report that things are changing. By the time you read this newsletter, the NAICC-sponsored Precision Ag Workshop will have been held in Memphis. Hopefully, this is the first of many regional, educational meetings sponsored by NAICC.

The 2005 Annual Meeting Coordination Committee is working diligently to radically reshape the Annual Meeting to be more reflective of the desires of the membership. Allison Jones is working out the details of our simultaneous meeting with ASFMRA to be held in 2007.

Thanks to all of you who attended the meeting in New Orleans. It is your participation that keeps NAICC viable. Welcome to all the new members and first-timers. We are glad to have you and hope you find a home with NAICC. I urge you all to be active, to get involved. If you want to contribute, we can find a place for you. Please feel free to contact Allison Jones or me at any time.

Got a GLP Problem? — Need a Solution?

Go to the Web! For several years, a forum devoted to GLP compliance has been operating on the internet. Run by Richard Reich of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, the

forum is a question-and-answer roundtable.

Individuals post questions or issues and participants reply with solutions or opinions. While many of the participants are

QAs (with much of the discussion focusing on laboratory or pharma studies), occasionally good information applicable to field

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studies comes along.

The forum is a good way to stay informed of developments or changes in regulation enforcement or interpretation.

It's also interesting to view the different interpretations of the regs that exist in the industry.

Participants can remain anonymous if they wish, allowing delicate issues to be

addressed without sacrificing their privacy.

If you're interested in participating in the forum, or merely observing, send a subscribe email to GLPForum@iqac.com.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JULY 1

Members and friends of NAICC, please consider young friends and acquaintances who might meet the Richard L. Jensen Memorial Scholarship qualifications, and bring the scholarship to their (or their parents') attention!

NAICC's Foundation for Environmental Agriculture Education (FEAE) awards the \$1000 scholarship each year. It is bestowed

upon a deserving third year agriculture student majoring in Crop Production or an allied subject.

The Richard L. Jensen Memorial Scholarship commemorates one of the early members of the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants.

Open to any student meeting the qualifications, application information and forms

are available on the NAICC website, www.naicc.org.

Completed applications must be turned in to NAICC headquarters by July 1, 2004. The winner will be notified in early August.

The 2003 Jensen Scholarship was awarded to Penn State University student Elijah Meck.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE STATES

The Louisiana Agricultural Consultants Association (LACA) held its annual meeting at the Louisiana Convention Center in Alexandria, January 28-30, 2004. New officers elected to the Executive Board are President **Dwayne Coulon**; President-Elect **Blaine Viator**; Secretary **Roger Carter**; Treasurer **Cary Cheek**; Past President **Randy Machovec** and Directors **Harold Lambert** and **Kevin Harper**.

LACA is also proud to support the NAICC's Dads in D.C. Crawfish Boil on March 18. Held at the Longworth Food Court in

Washington, D.C., the event brings together members of the House and Senate Ag Committees and their staffs, USDA and EPA officials and representatives of commodity and other non-profit ag associations.

The NAICC Executive Board, along with other NAICC members, will dine with legislative leaders. Succulent crawfish from Louisiana will be made into etouffee' by "de cook," **Jim Braucht** of Monsanto.

This coming together of crop and research consultants with our leaders on the Hill has brought about many positive

changes in regulations and is known as "the reception to attend" by members of the House and Senate.

Denise Wright of R & D Research Farm has recently been appointed LACA Executive Director. Denise is already busy working with NAICC to move the LACA website from its current server to become an affiliate of the NAICC website. While LACA's site will have its own domain name, the site will be easily accessible through the NAICC website at www.naicc.org.

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